ALIENS™

GENOCIDE

4 OF 4 $2.50 U.S. $3.00 Canada

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STORY: MIKE RICHARDSON • SCRIPT: JOHN ARCUDI • PENCILLER: DAMON WILLIS
INKER: KARL STORY • LETTERER: JIM MASSARA • EDITOR: BARBARA KESEL
COVER ARTIST & COLORIST: ARTHUR SUYDAM

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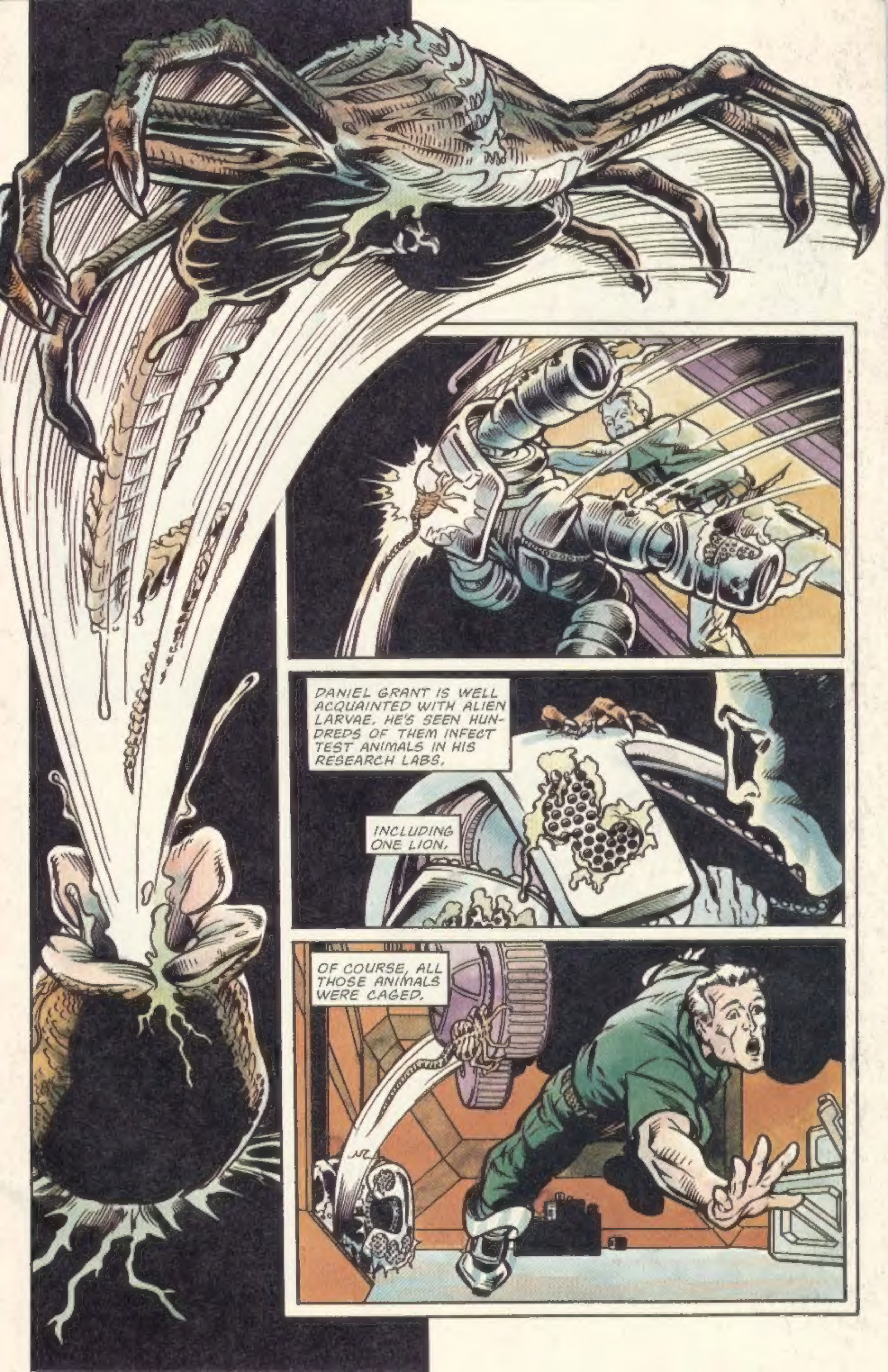

DANIEL GRANT IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ALIEN LARVAE. HE'S SEEN HUNDREDS OF THEM INFECT TEST ANIMALS IN HIS RESEARCH LABS.
INCLUDING ONE LION.
OF COURSE, ALL THOSE ANIMALS WERE CAGED.

THEY COULD NEVER SIMPLY RUN AWAY.

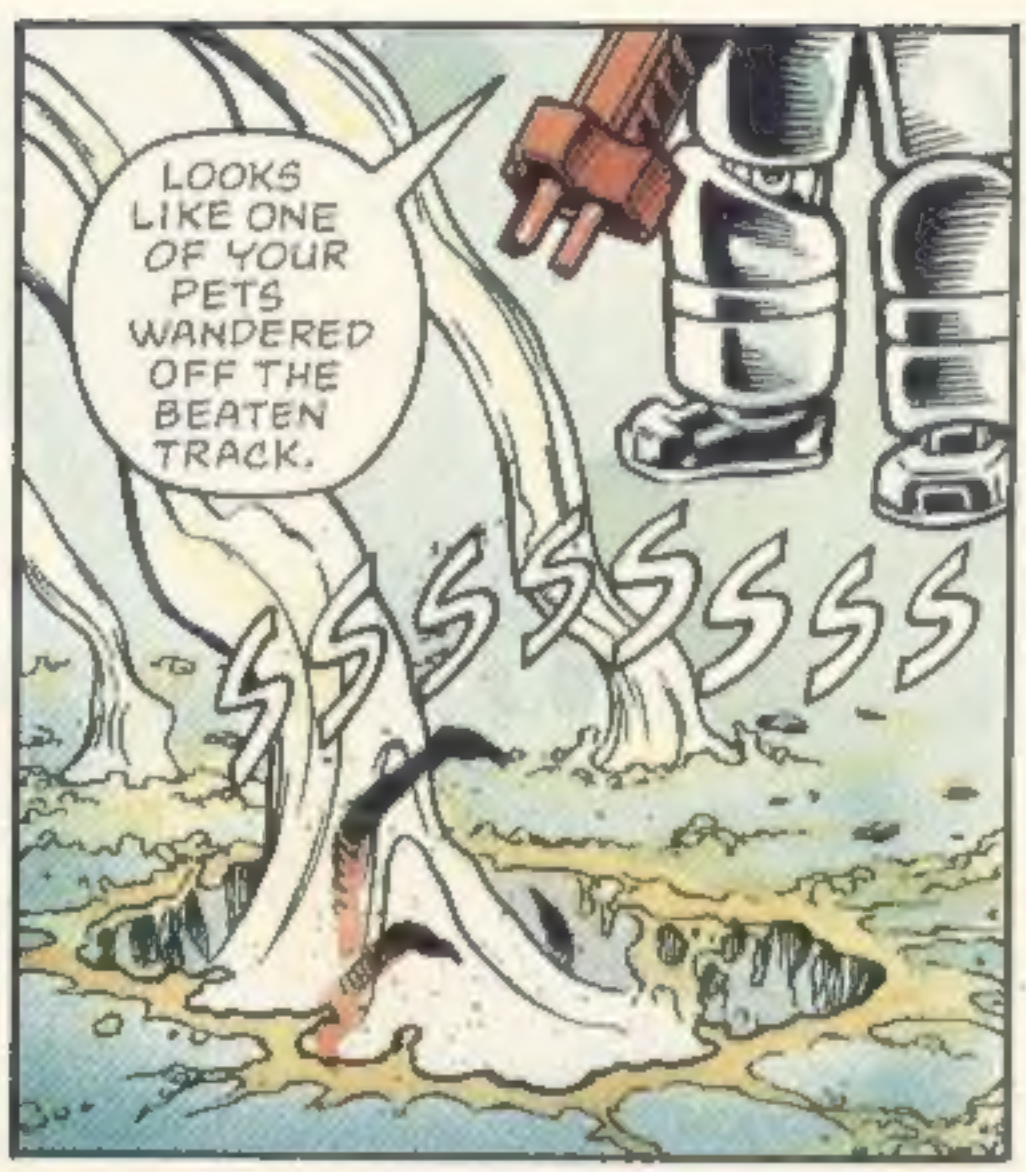
NOT THAT IT WOULD HAVE DONE THEM ANY GOOD.
HAAALP!!

WHACK

SHHK OW!!

WHOA! YOU SURE SAVED MY ASS, SOLDIER!

YEAH, WELL, THAT'S MY JOB.


LOOKS LIKE ONE OF YOUR PETS WANDERED OFF THE BEATEN TRACK.
SSSSSSSSS

NO WAY, MAJOR! I ONLY AUTHORIZED ONE CREATURE FOR INCUBATION. THIS WAS A BLATANT ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE.
TAKE A LOOK IN THE ARMORY CLOSET!

I WAS THE ONLY ONE NOT ARMORED, SO IT'S OBVIOUS THIS THING WAS PLANTED TO GET ME WHEN I CAME BACK HERE.
IT'S GOT TO BE BEGALLI. HE MUST STILL BE WORKING FOR THOSE SCUMBAGS AT MEDTECH. I WANT YOU TO PUT THAT BASTARD UNDER ARREST--

--OR HANG HIM.

REIN YOURSELF IN, GRANT.

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, RIGHT?

OF COURSE, IT'S A TIMER CLAMP.
IT'S USED TO HOLD THE LIPS OF AN EGG SHUT TO INSURE THE CREATURE CAN'T ESCAPE DURING TRANSPORTATION.

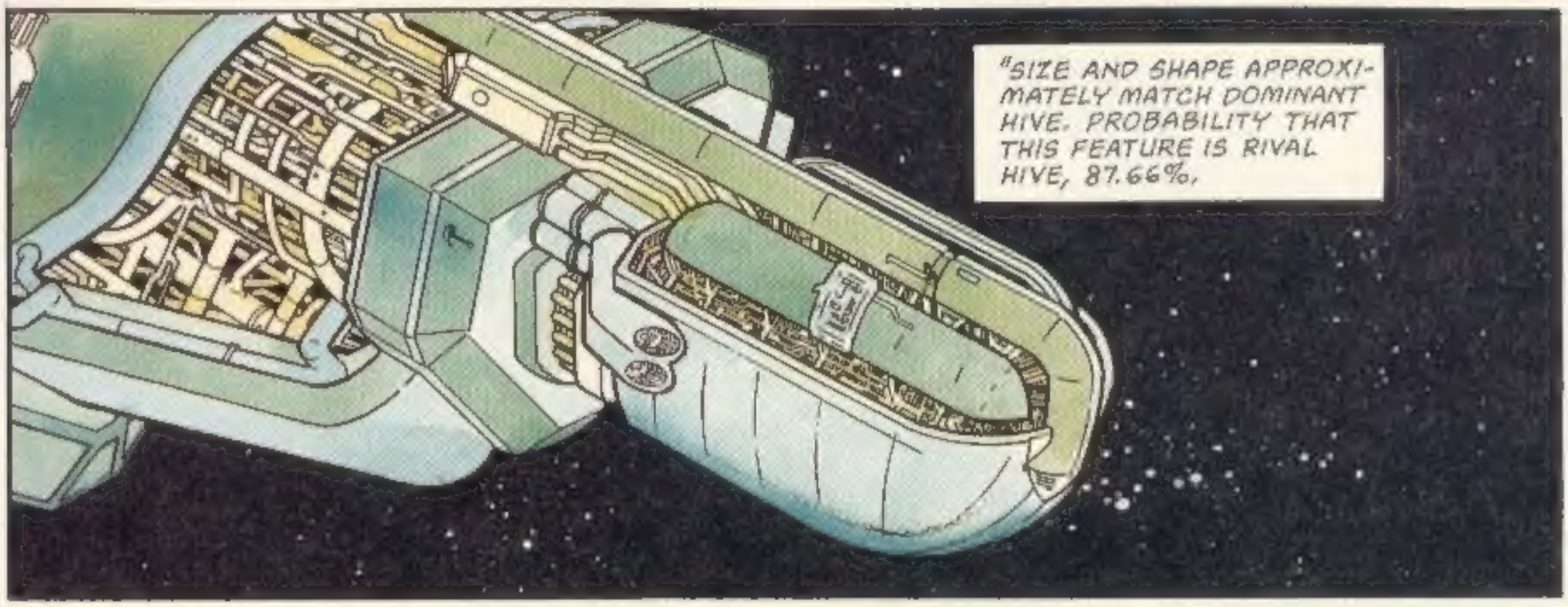
AND IT AUTOMATICALLY FALLS OFF WHEN THE TIMER EXPIRES. NOBODY IS ANYWHERE NEAR THE EGG WHEN IT "ACTIVATES."
SO?
SO, ANYONE COULD HAVE PLANTED THIS EGG... EVEN ME.

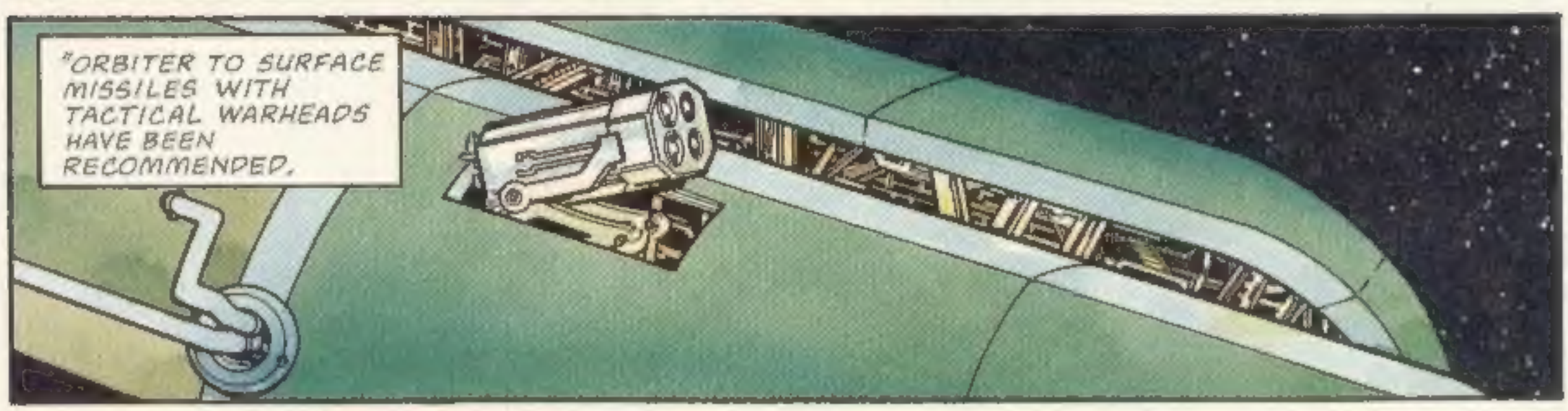
BEGALLI IS THE ONLY ALIEN EXPERT IN THE LANDING PARTY.
MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT ALL RADIO SIGNALS ARE SCRAMBLED BY THOSE HIVES. ONCE INSIDE, WE'LL HAVE NO COMMUNICATION WITH THE LANDER.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED "THAT BASTARD" IN THERE MORE THAN ANY OTHER CREW MEMBER.

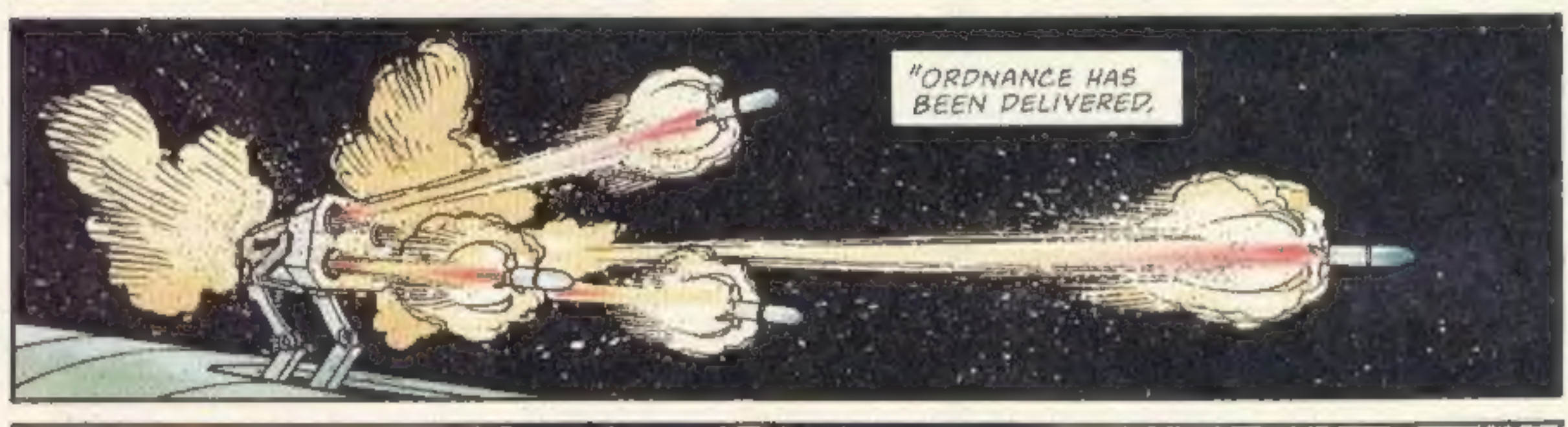
WITHOUT HIM, THIS OPERATION IS DEAD IN THE WATER.
YOU STILL WANT ME TO BUST HIM?
NO. I GUESS NOT.

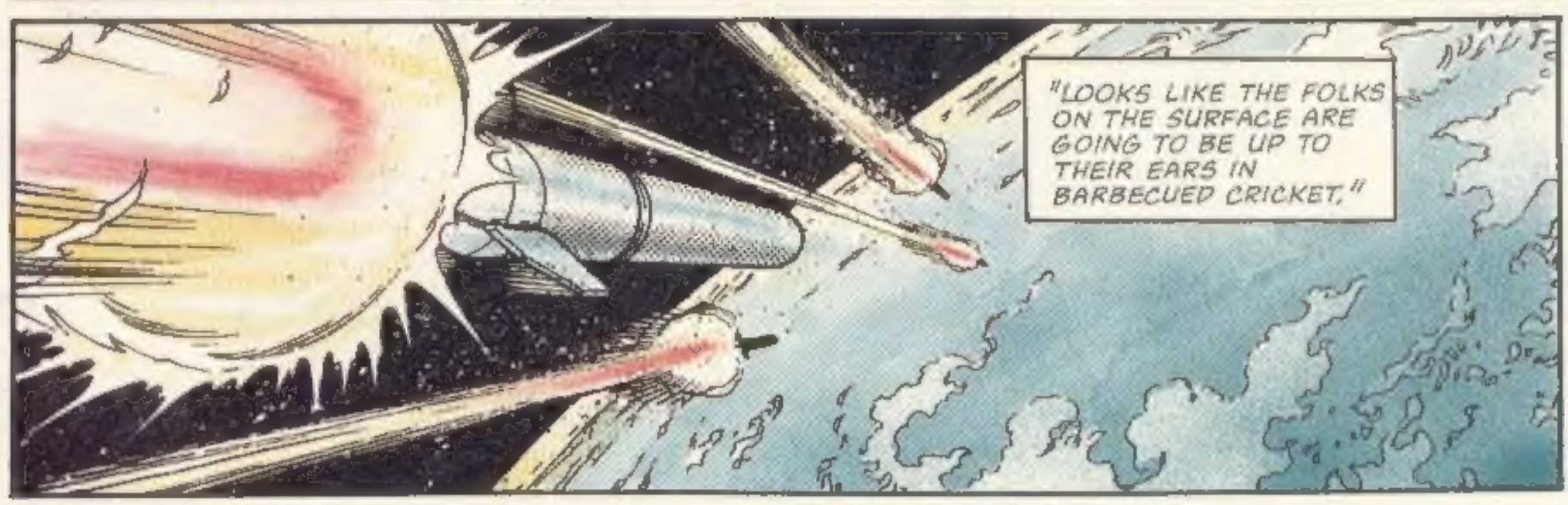
I'M GOING TO START THE SEARCH AND DESTROY MISSION ON THE RIVAL HIVE.
TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, OKAY?

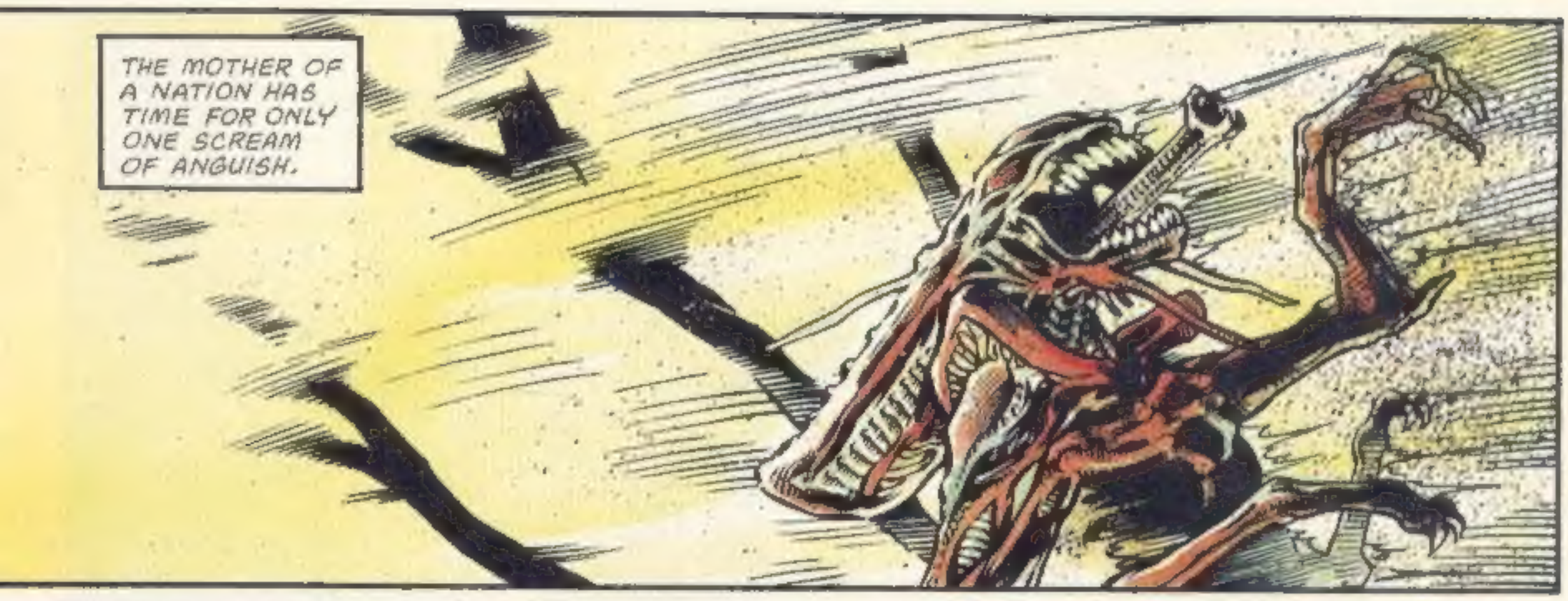
"COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF THE SURFACE'S PRESENT TOPOGRAPHY WITH MAPS LOGGED ON EARLIER MISSIONS REVEAL THE PRESENCE OF A NEW FORMATION SOME 42 KLICKS DUE EAST OF THE L.Z.


"SIZE AND SHAPE APPROXIMATELY MATCH DOMINANT HIVE. PROBABILITY THAT THIS FEATURE IS RIVAL HIVE, 87.66%.


"ORBITER TO SURFACE MISSILES WITH TACTICAL WARHEADS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED.


"ORDNANCE HAS BEEN DELIVERED.

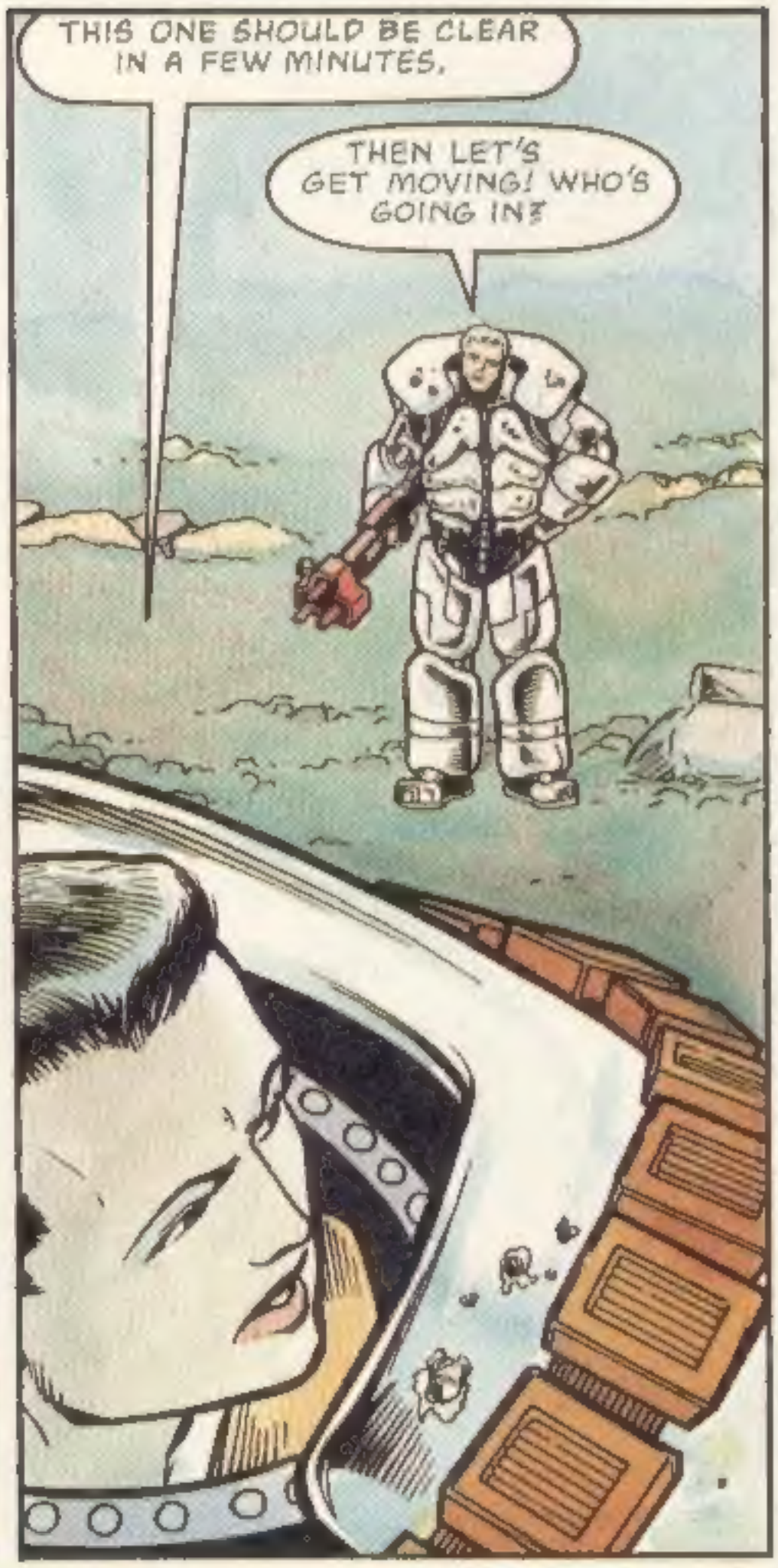

"LOOKS LIKE THE FOLKS ON THE SURFACE ARE GOING TO BE UP TO THEIR EARS IN BARBECUED CRICKET."


THE MOTHER OF A NATION HAS TIME FOR ONLY ONE SCREAM OF ANGUISH.

A SCREAM HEARD BY EACH OF HER VAST BROOD.

A SCREAM WHICH SOUNDS THE DEATH KNELL OF THE NEW ORDER.

IT WORKED!
THE REDS ARE RETREATING TO THE OTHER HIVE.


THIS ONE SHOULD BE CLEAR IN A FEW MINUTES.
THEN LET'S GET MOVING! WHO'S GOING IN?

EVERYONE BUT THE TECHNICAL CREW --AND ELLIS.
MAKES SENSE, HE'S TAKING JASTROW'S DEATH PRETTY HARD.

THEY GREW UP TOGETHER, JOINED THE CORPS TOGETHER, AND FOUGHT FOR YEARS IN THE SAME UNIT.
HE'S A GOOD MARINE, AND HE'LL BE OKAY IN A FEW DAYS, BUT I'D RATHER NOT HAVE HIM IN CLOSE COMBAT RIGHT NOW.
BESIDES, SOMEONE HAS TO MAN THE GUNS.

ALL SET, MAJOR.

HOW ABOUT YOU, GRANT? YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MAJOR, I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!

ALL RIGHT, THEN

O'CONNOR DROP THE SOUTHERN BORDER

POOM!

THIS SORT OF FIGHT IS WHAT THE MARINES EXPECTED ON THE ALIEN HOMEWORLD, WHAT THEY'RE USED TO

IT'S NOT A BATTLE THEY EXECUTE BUT A SWIFT AND BRUTAL VENGEANCE FOR THE R... VIRALCS ...

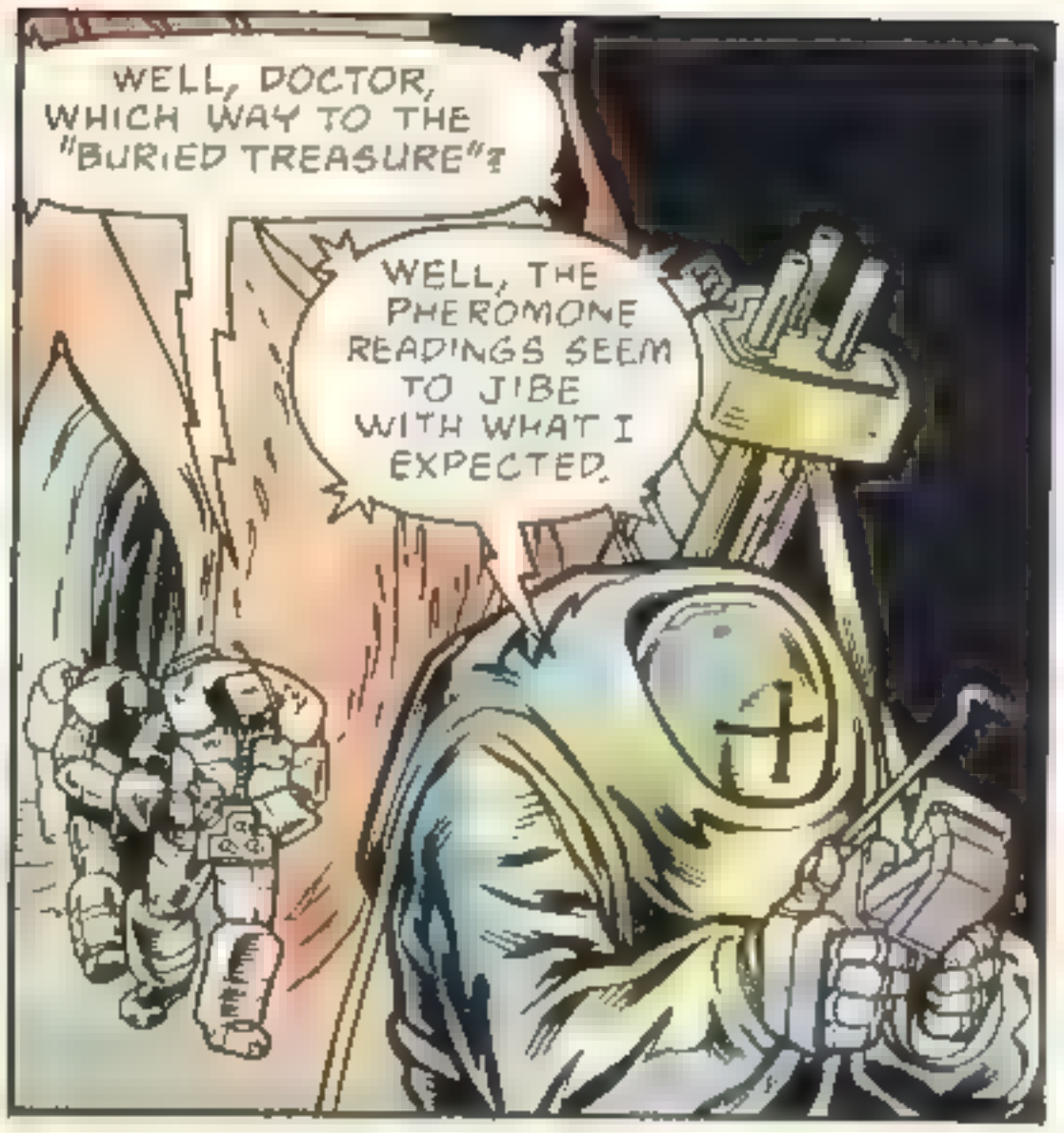
WELL, MAJOR, WERE MY COMBAT SKILLS SATISFACTORY?

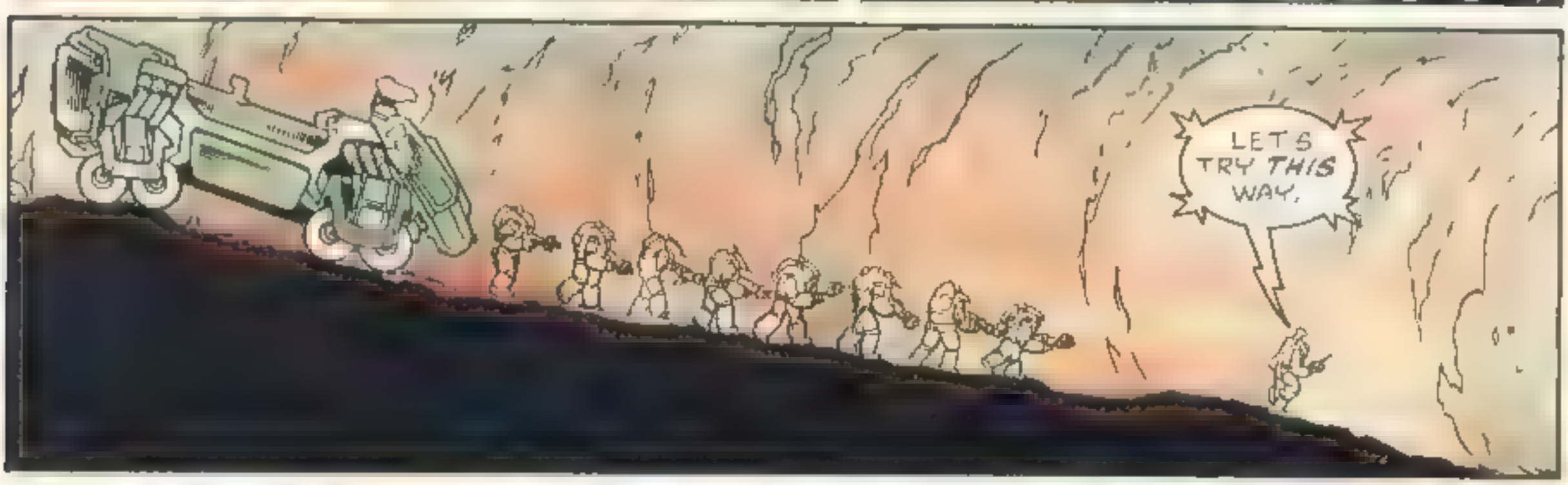
PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK LATER GRANT AND PUT YOUR DAMN HELMET BACK ON!

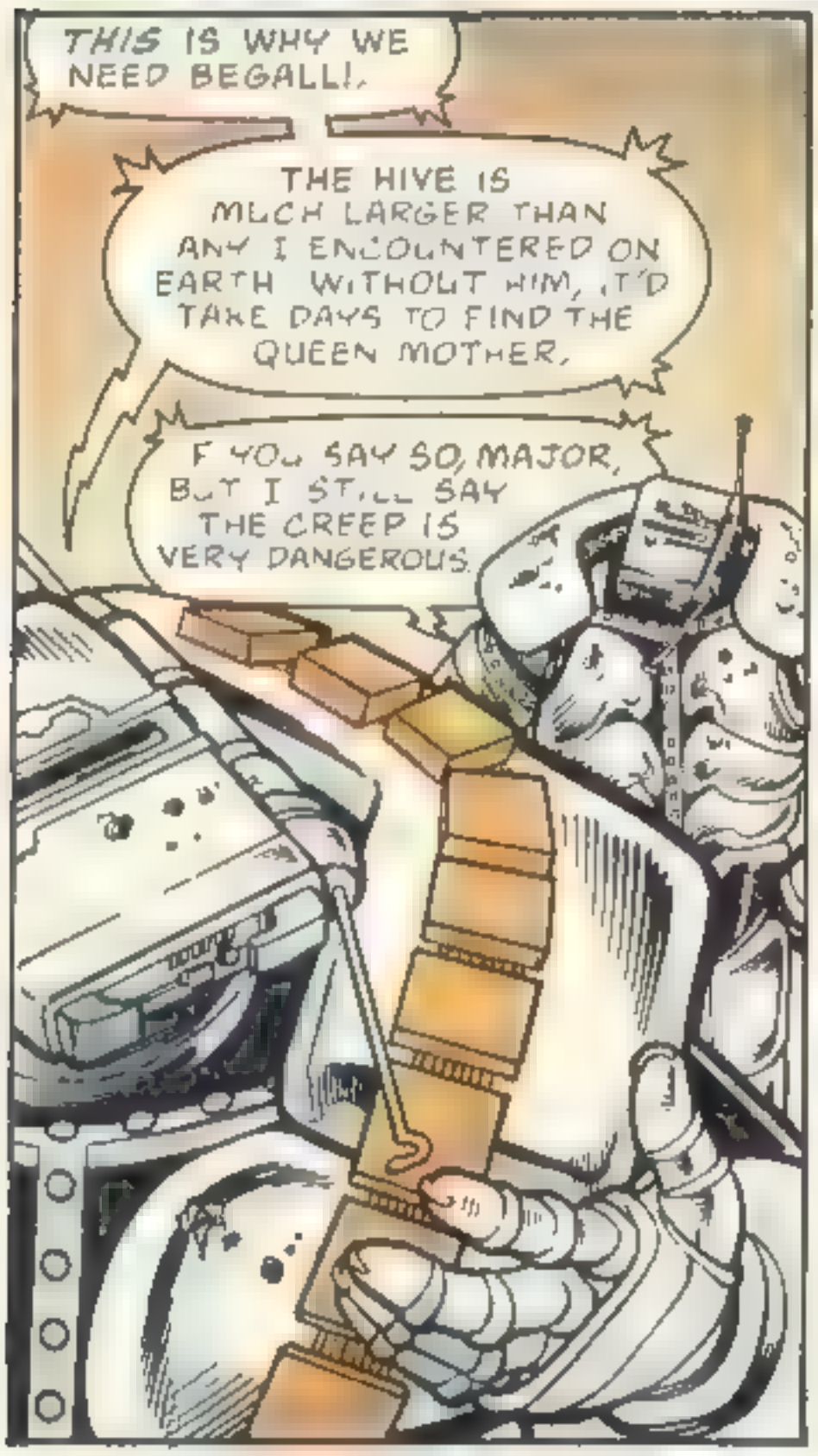
O'CONNOR DROP THE NEW SOUTHERN BORDER AND SEND IN THE CARGO DRONE

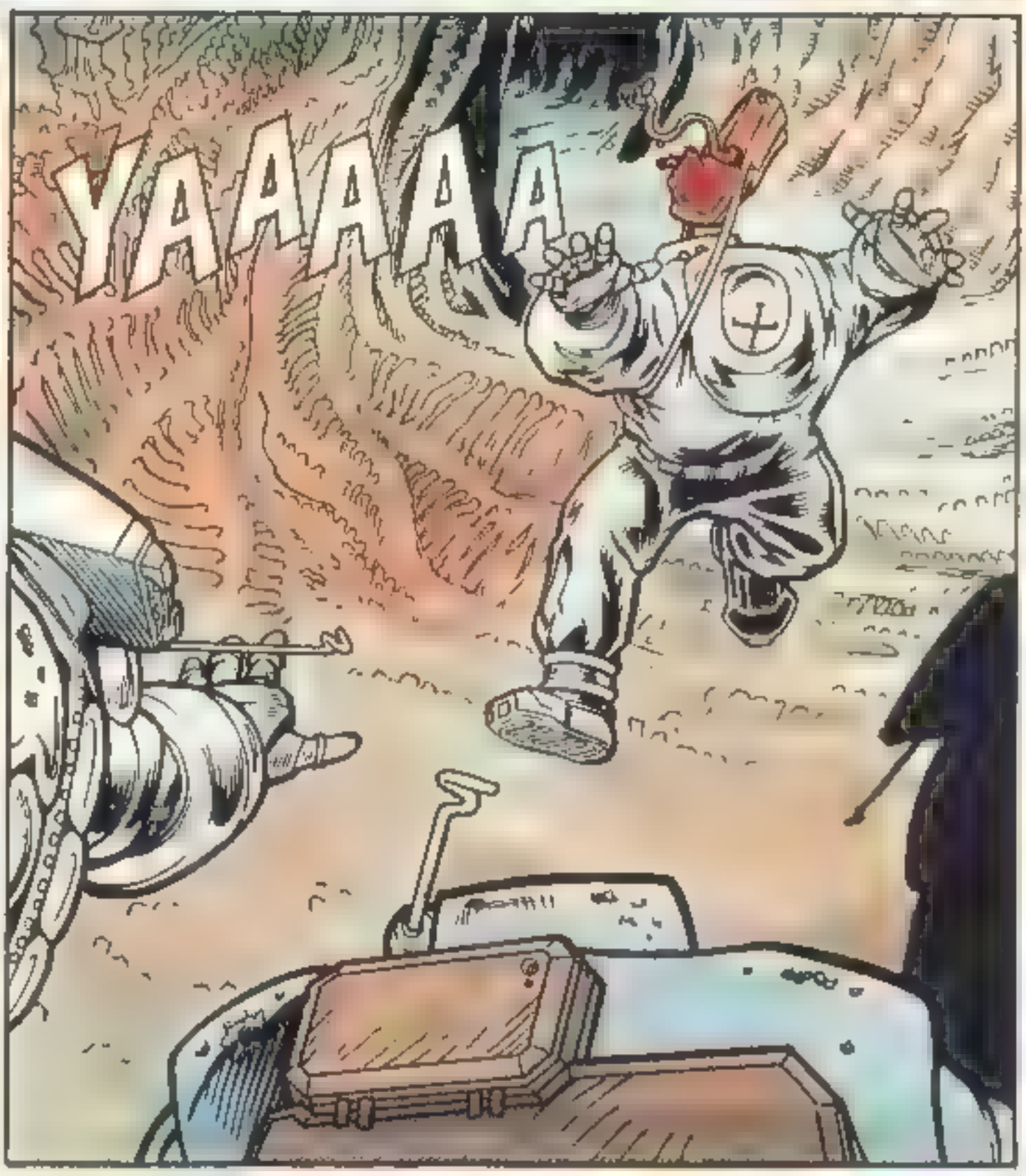
THIS IS THE LAST RADIO CONTACT TILL WE GET BACK OUT OVER AND OUT

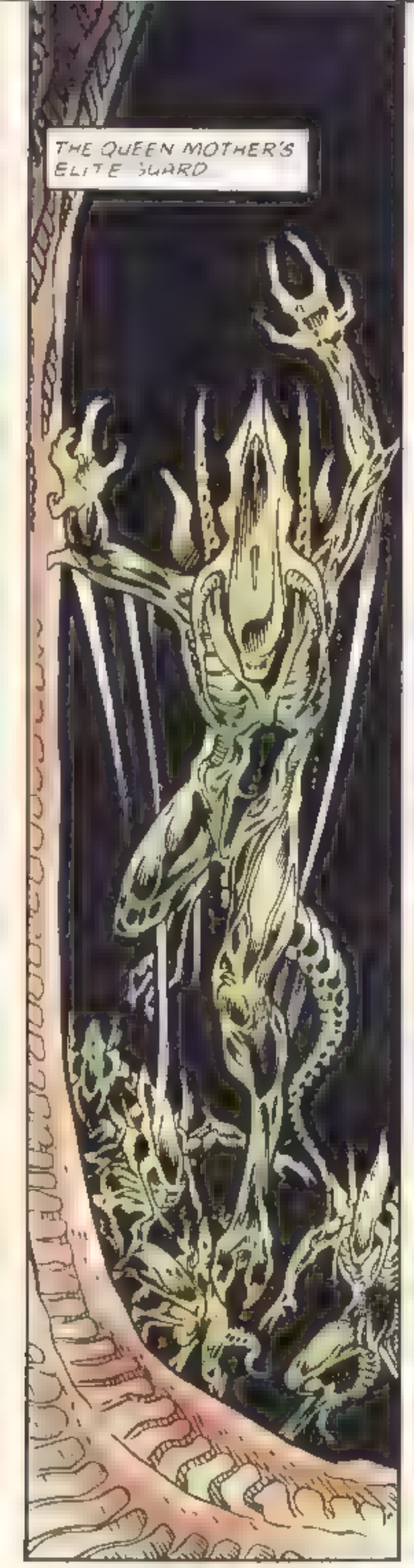
OKAY, DR. BEGALLI, GET YOUR BUTT UP FRONT.

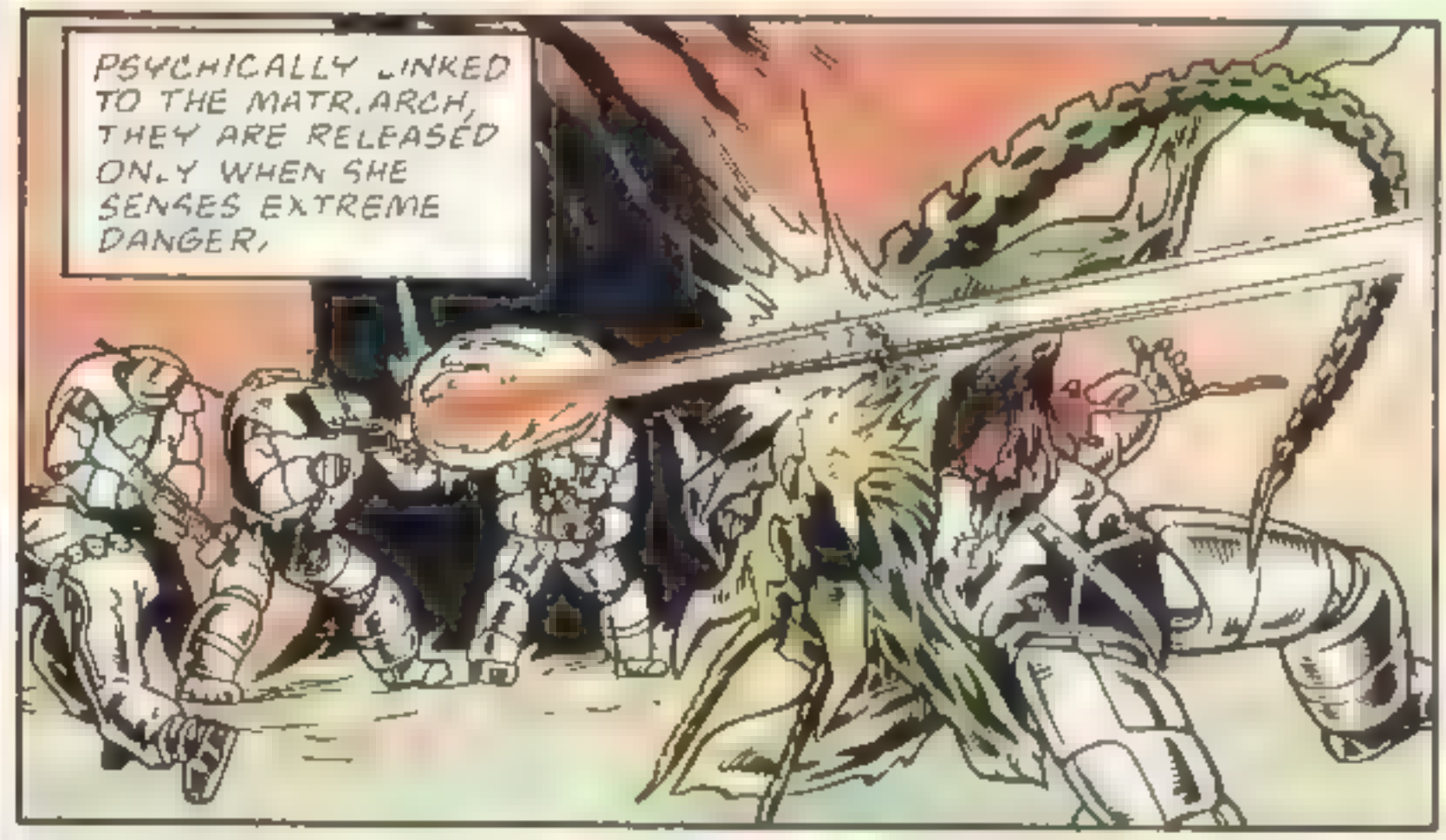

WELL, DOCTOR, WHICH WAY TO THE "BURIED TREASURE"?
WELL, THE PHEROMONE READINGS SEEM TO JIBE WITH WHAT I EXPECTED.

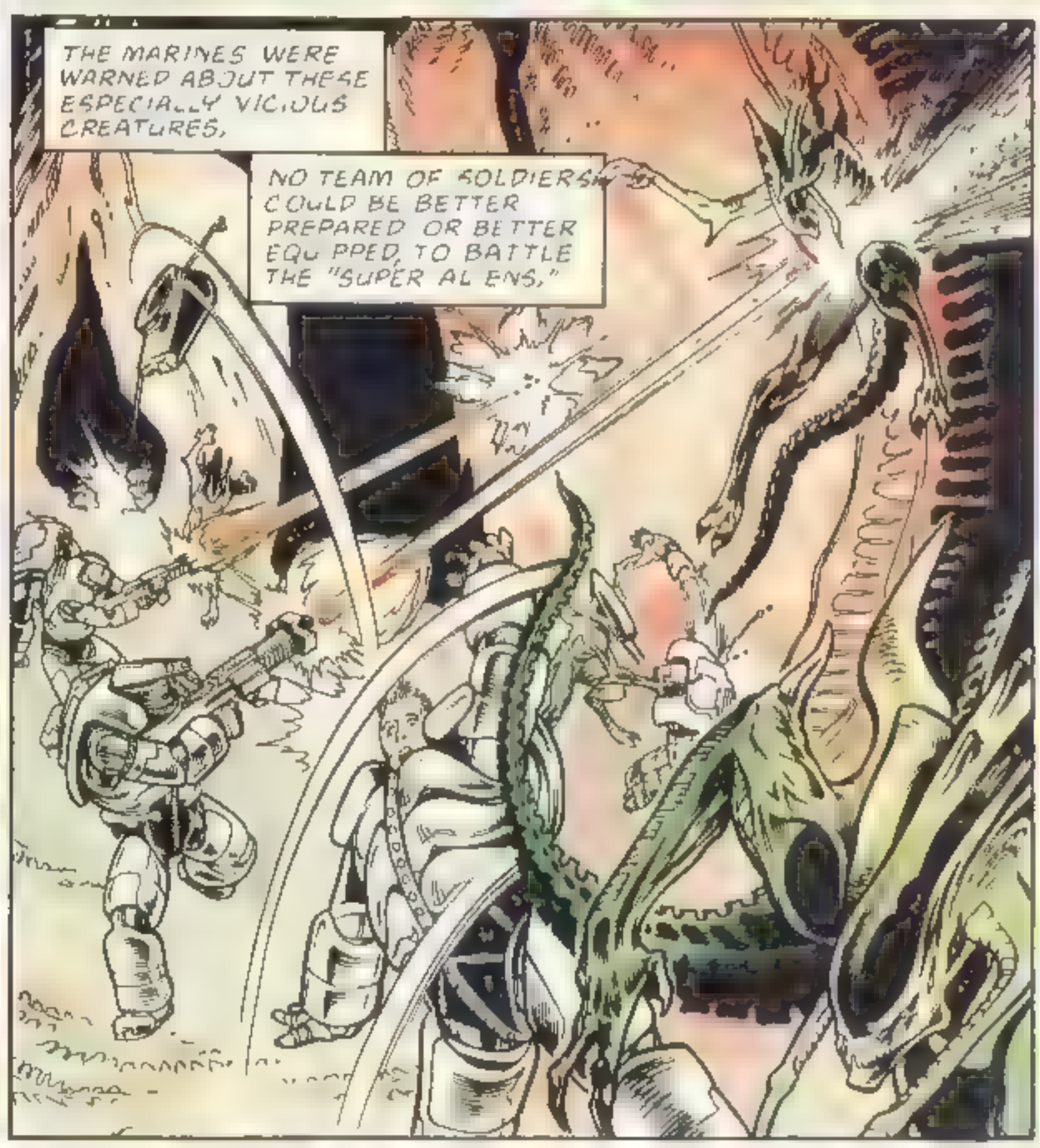

LET'S TRY THIS WAY.

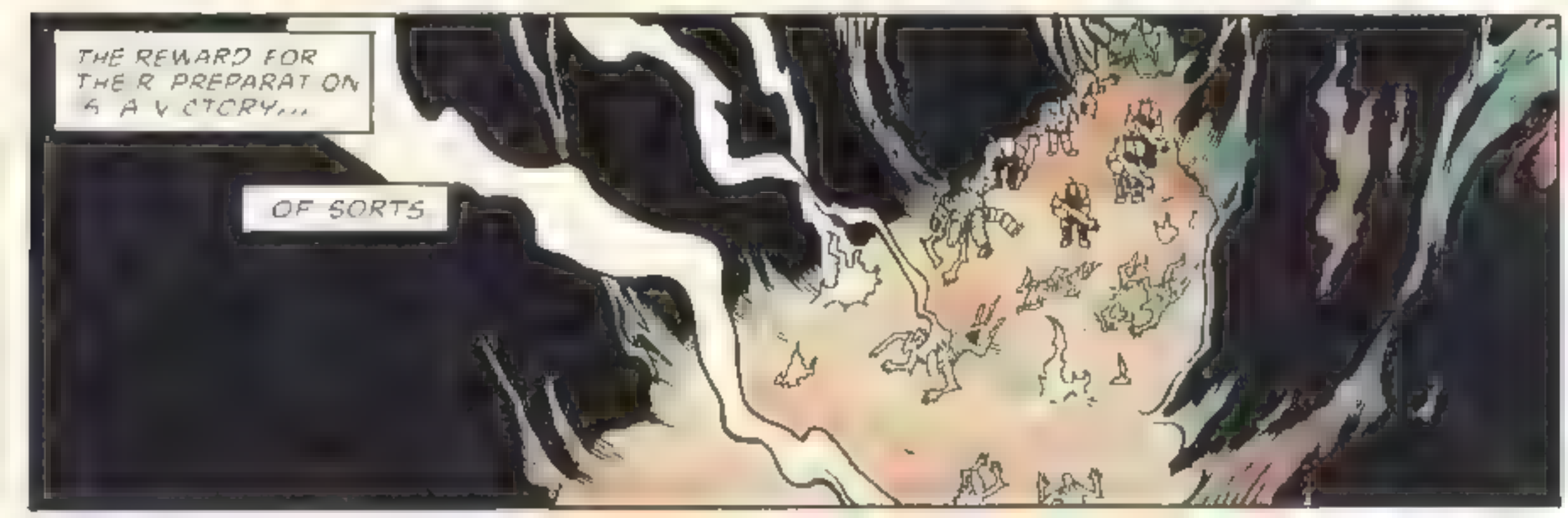

THIS IS WHY WE NEED BEGALLI.
THE HIVE IS MUCH LARGER THAN ANY I ENCOUNTERED ON EARTH. WITHOUT HIM, IT'D TAKE DAYS TO FIND THE QUEEN MOTHER.
IF YOU SAY SO, MAJOR, BUT I STILL SAY THE CREEP IS VERY DANGEROUS.


YAAAAA


THE QUEEN MOTHER'S ELITE GUARD


PSYCHICALLY LINKED TO THE MATRIARCH, THEY ARE RELEASED ONLY WHEN SHE SENSES EXTREME DANGER.


THE MARINES WERE WARNED ABOUT THESE ESPECIALLY VICIOUS CREATURES.
NO TEAM OF SOLDIERS COULD BE BETTER PREPARED OR BETTER EQUIPPED TO BATTLE THE "SUPER ALIENS."


THE REWARD FOR THEIR PREPARATION IS A VICTORY...
OF SORTS

S, S
EVERYONE
ALL RIGHT?

COME ON, YOU LITTLE BASTARD,

YOU'RE TAKING US TO THE QUEEN MOTHER'S CHAMBERS OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF

THERE ARE MORE SURPRISES HERE THAN I FIGURED ON SO I WANT YOU THREE TO WATCH OUR BACKS

THE RADIOS DON'T FUNCTION LONG DISTANCE IN THE HIVES SO IF WE DON'T RETURN IN TWO HOURS, GET BACK TO THE LANDER AND GET OUT OF HERE

MAJOR, DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S WORTH ALL THIS TROUBLE, I MEAN, THIS JELLY WE'RE AFTER?

AH-AH-AH HENRIKSEN DON'T START THINKING NOW

I'LL ONLY DISTRACT YOU

LOOK! LOOK AT IT ALL!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS MUCH UP CLOSE.
GOD, IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
BEAUTIFUL!
EIGHT GOOD PEOPLE DIED FOR THAT CRAP! DOESN'T THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
BUT MR GRANT SIR THIS EXPEDITION WAS YOUR IDEA.

YEAH AND I'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF FOR MAKING SUCH A HORRIBLE MISTAKE.

I WAS CARELESS, IGNORANT, AND INHUMANLY SELFISH.

BUT YOU, YOU'RE EVIL. TRY TO DENY THAT YOU'VE BEEN SABOTAGING THIS MISSION FROM DAY ONE.

WHAT?

COME OFF IT! I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU BEGALLI, AND I KNOW DAMN WELL YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING!

Y-YES, OKAY-- I HAVE BEEN UP TO SOMETHING BUT NOT SABOTAGE.

I'M DOING RESEARCH, INDEPENDENT OF NEO-PHARM. I'D PLANNED TO PUBLISH ARTICLES ON MY FINDINGS.

ARTICLES?

NO OTHER SCIENTIST HAS BEEN IN THE QUEEN MOTHER'S HIVE BEFORE.

MY FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE TO ANY PHARMACOLOGICAL CORPORATION.

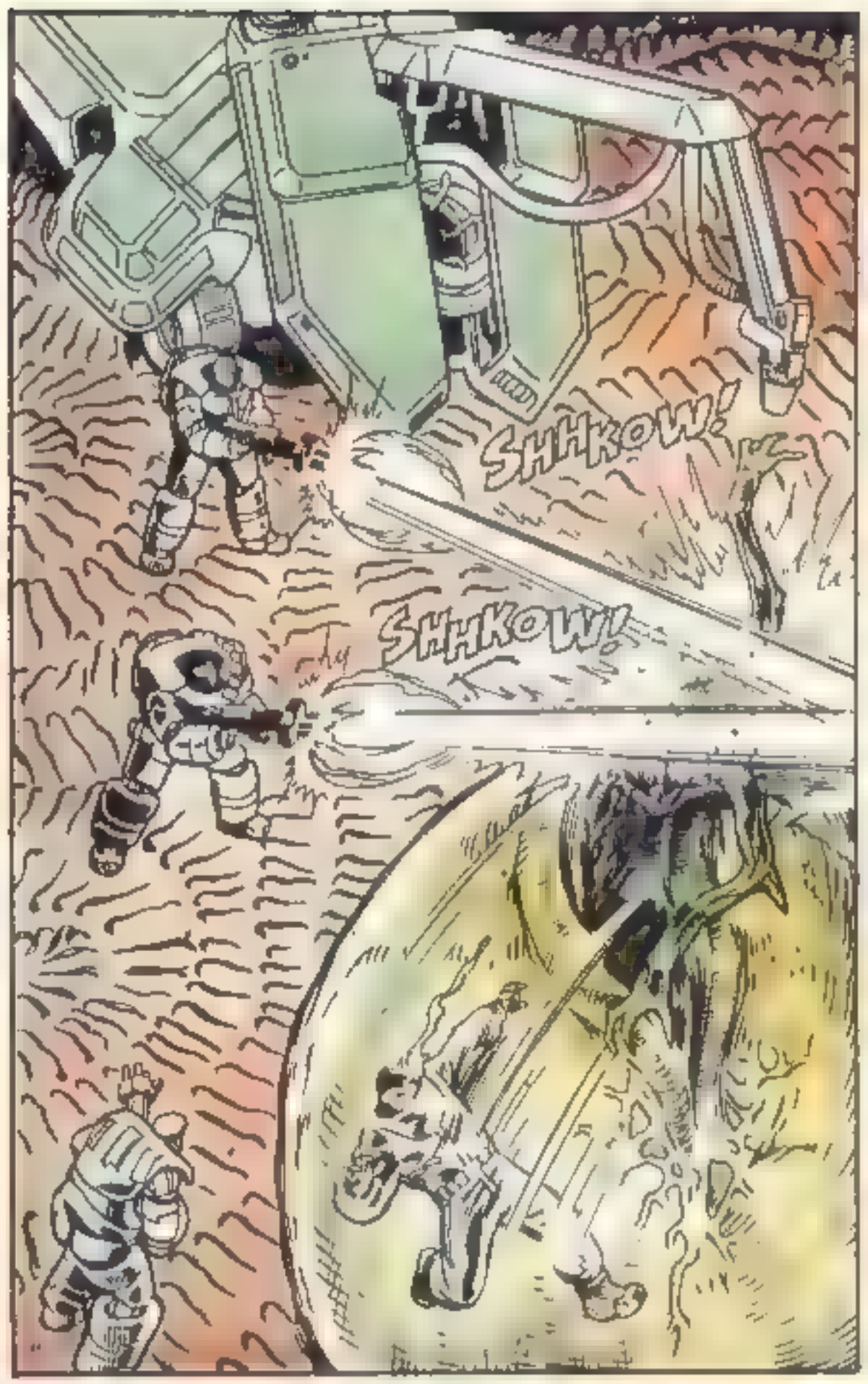
ARTICLES?

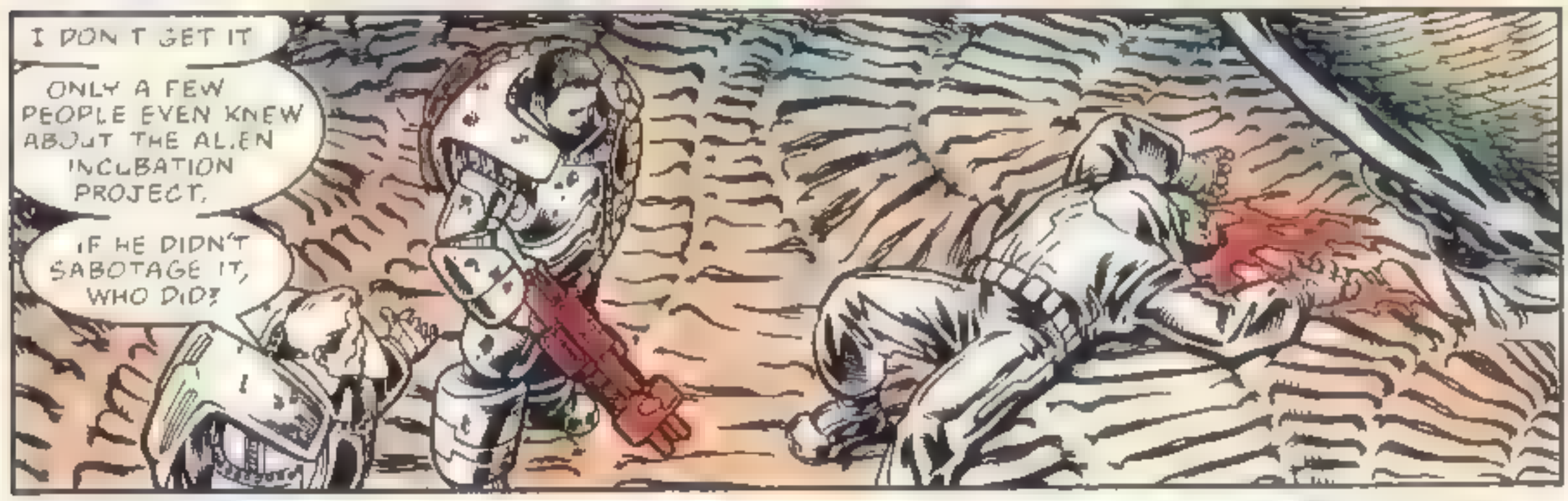
YOU HEARD THE GUY GRANT! THE ONLY THING HE'S GUILTY OF IS GREED! NOW BACK OFF!

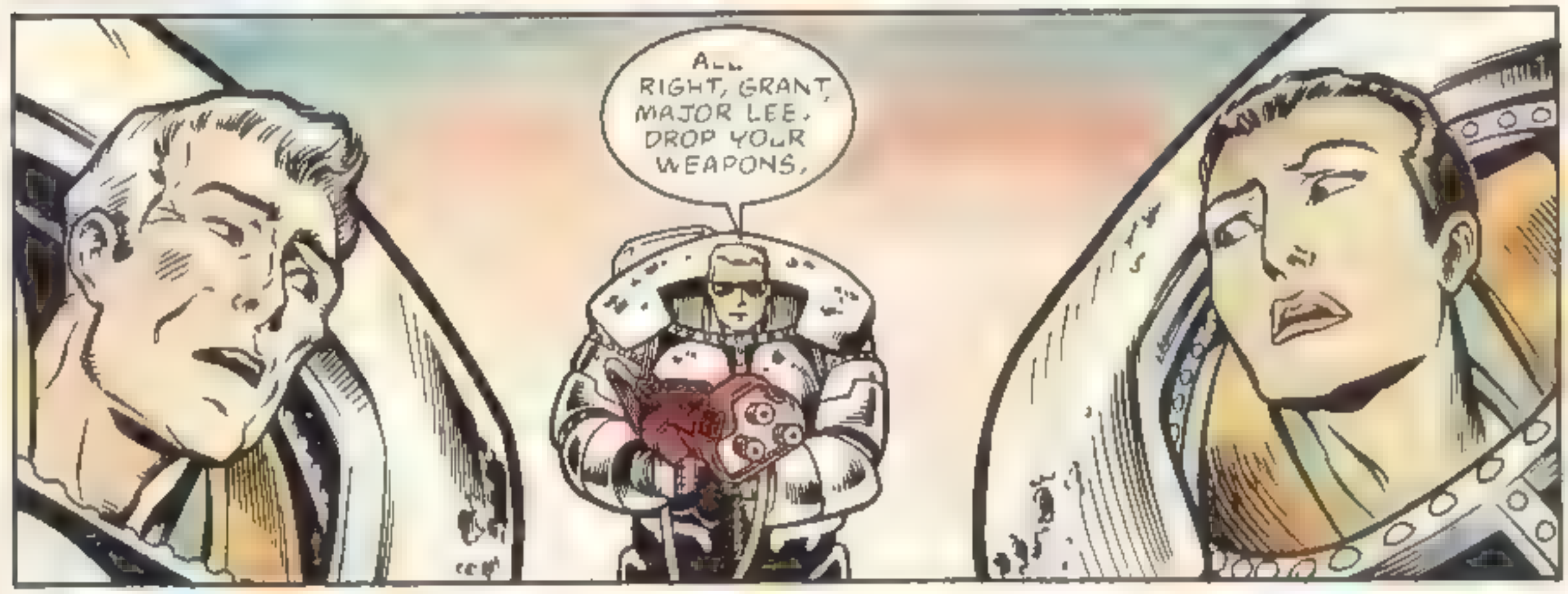
SO HOW DO I KNOW HE ISN'T LYING TO SAVE HIS A

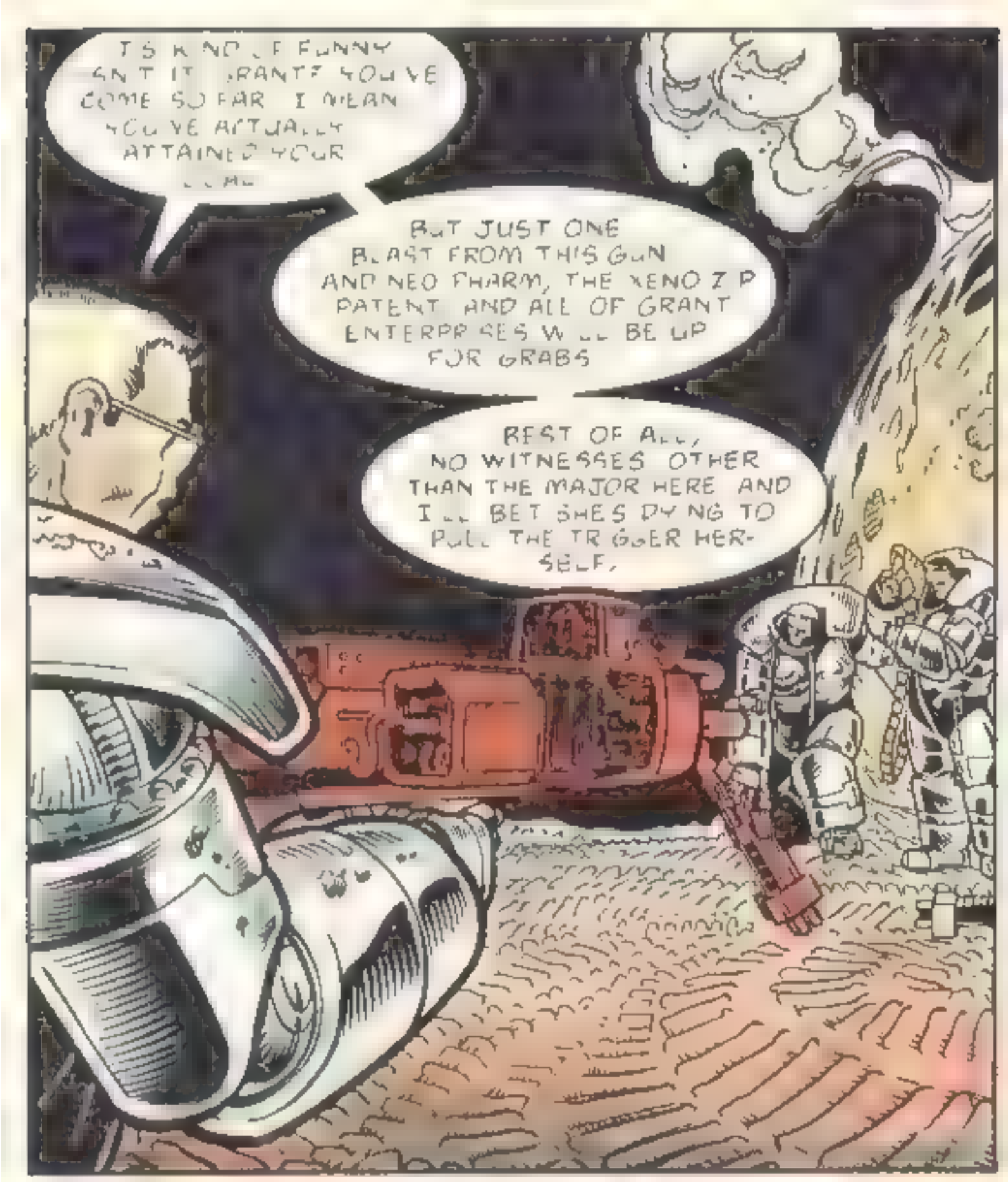
AAAAIIIIII

ALL!! SPLUTCH!


SHHKOW!
SHHKOW!

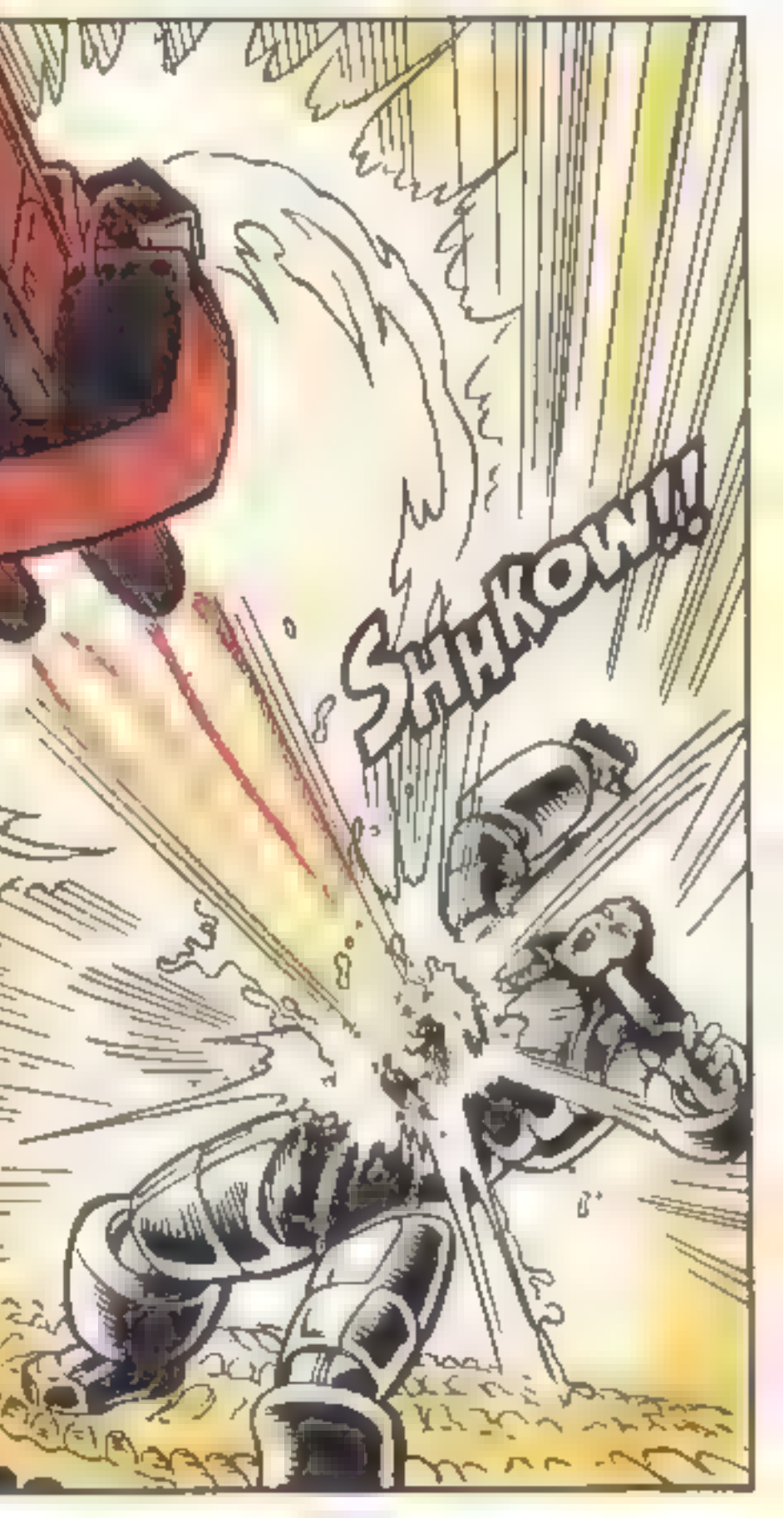

I DON'T GET IT
ONLY A FEW PEOPLE EVEN KNEW ABOUT THE ALIEN INCUBATION PROJECT.
IF HE DIDN'T SABOTAGE IT, WHO DID?


ALL RIGHT, GRANT, MAJOR LEE, DROP YOUR WEAPONS.


IS KIND OF FUNNY ISN'T IT GRANT? YOU'VE COME SO FAR I MEAN YOU'VE ACTUALLY ATTAINED YOUR GOAL
BUT JUST ONE BLAST FROM THIS GUN AND NEO PHARM, THE XENO Z P PATENT AND ALL OF GRANT ENTERPRISES WILL BE UP FOR GRABS
BEST OF ALL, NO WITNESSES OTHER THAN THE MAJOR HERE AND I'LL BET SHE'S DYING TO PULL THE TRIGGER HERSELF.

I DON'T GET IT, YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE WITH THE REST OF US.
LIFE HAS NO MEANING TO HIM, MAJOR HE'S AN ANDROID, BUILT AND PROGRAMMED BY MEDTECH TO RUN ME.
RIGHT, "HENRIKSEN"?

HEH HEH SURE THAT'S IT HEH HEH
HA HA HA
HA HA
LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, CORPORAL.


SHHKOW!!!

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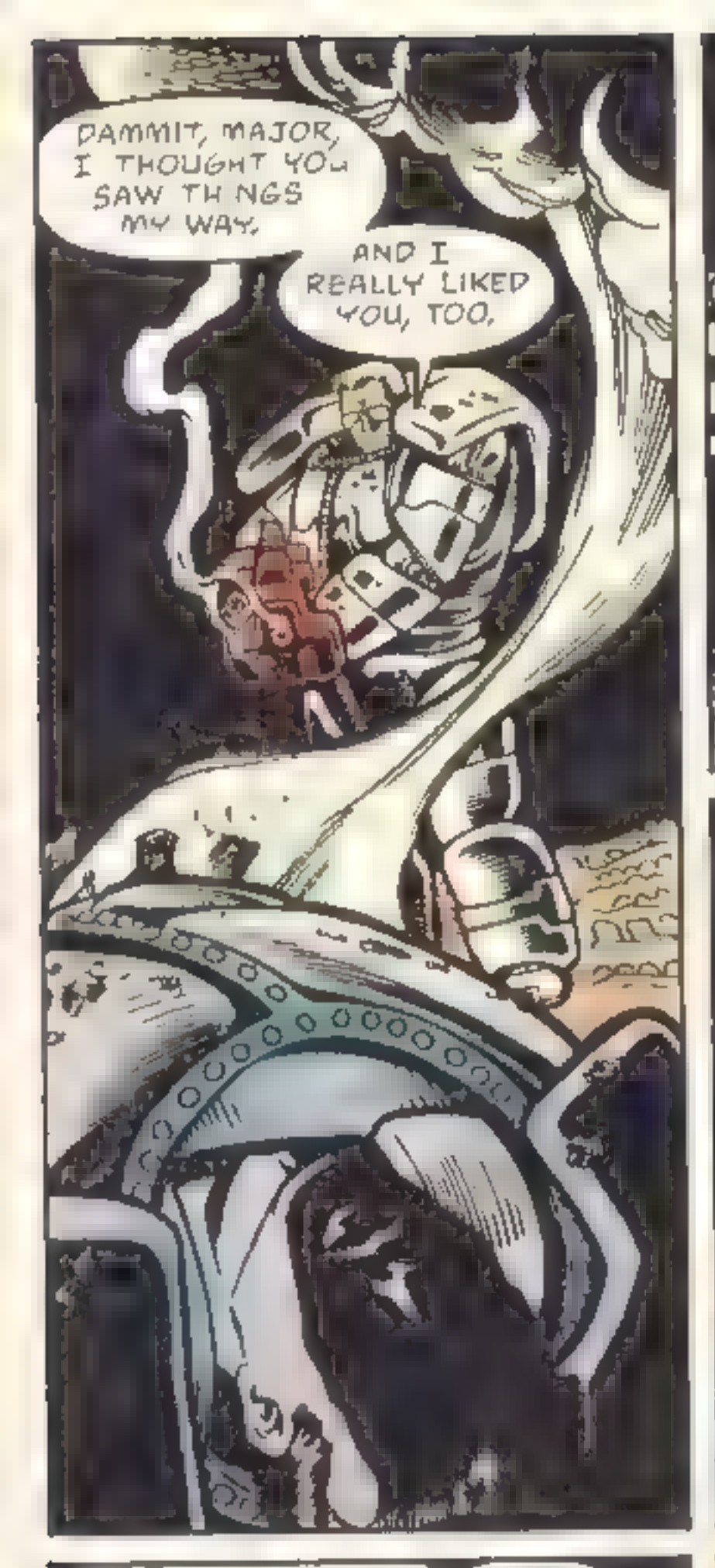
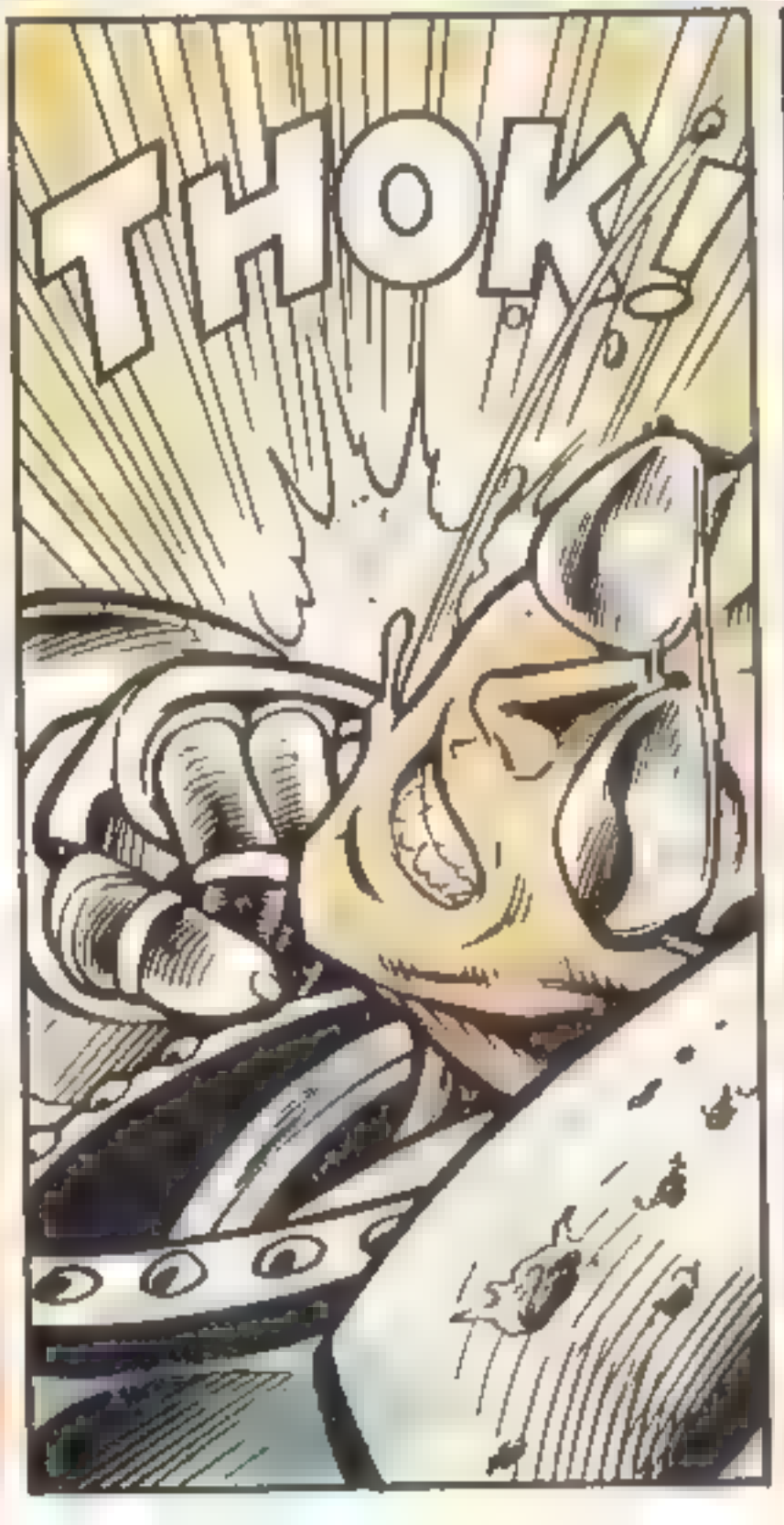
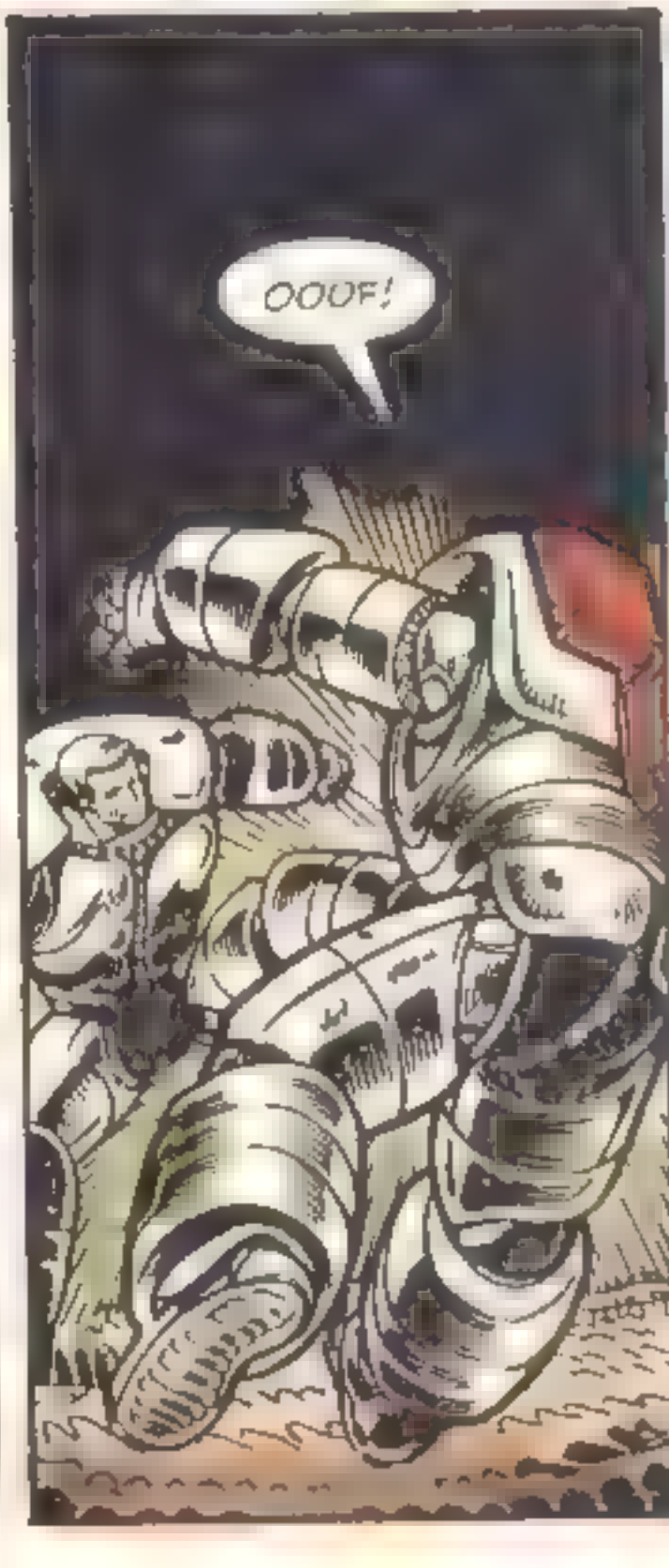

DAMMIT, MAJOR, I THOUGHT YOU SAW THINGS MY WAY.
AND I REALLY LIKED YOU, TOO.

SMAAK!
OH, THAT WAS A MISTAKE, GRANT.

YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, TRAINING IN A GYM WITH A TEACHER,
BUT INSIDE, ALL YOU RICH MAGGOTS ARE SOFT AS--


THOK!


OOOF!

WHUUMP!
I WAS WRONG YOU RE TOO DAMN ARROGANT TO BE AN ANDR ID
OOOH, I THINK MY HIP IS BROKEN.
BUT... SHOULDN'T I BE DEAD?
THE UNDER-P ATING ON THIS ARMOR IS DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND SEVERE CONCUSSIONS.
STILL, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT THAT H P. YOU'RE GO ING TO NEED SOME HELP.

SOON.

SPIES, RENEGADES, AND HIT MEN. I THINK IT'S TIME I DROPPED OUT OF THE CORPORATE WORLD.

BUT NOT BEFORE WE TAKE THIS LOAD HOME, RIGHT?

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF THIS MORNING MAJOR. TOO MANY HAVE DIED FOR US TO LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND NOW.

YEAH, WHATEVER

I GUESS THIS MAKES YOU FEEL PRETTY GOOD BEING THE HERO, SAVING MY LIFE

JUST RETURNING THE FAVOR MAJOR

PLEASE ACTIVATE THE DRONE MAJOR. IT'S SET TO FOLLOW US WHEN WE HIT OPEN AIR. I'LL HOME IN ON THE LANDER

HENRIKSEN YOU LEAD THE WAY.

I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD BE WEARING MORE ARMOR, AND WHAT ABOUT OUR HELMETS?

FORGET THE HELMETS. WE'VE GOT ENOUGH WEIGHT TO SLOW US DOWN AS IT IS

BESIDES, THE CREATURES ARE MILES FROM HERE.

SHHKOW!
SHHKOW!
SHHKOW!

WHAT THE HELL--?

IT'S THE REAR PATROL.

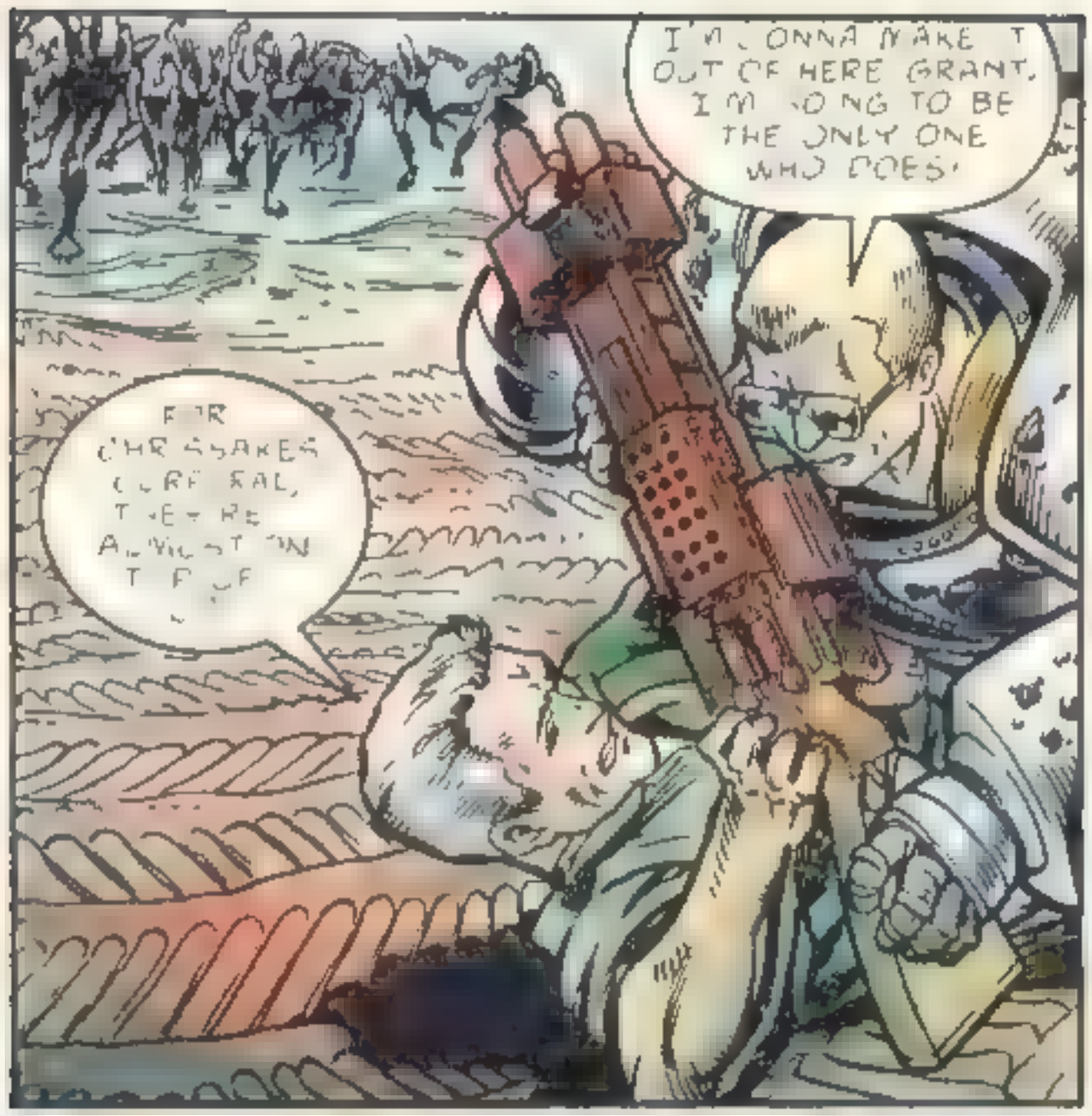
RRRUUMBLE

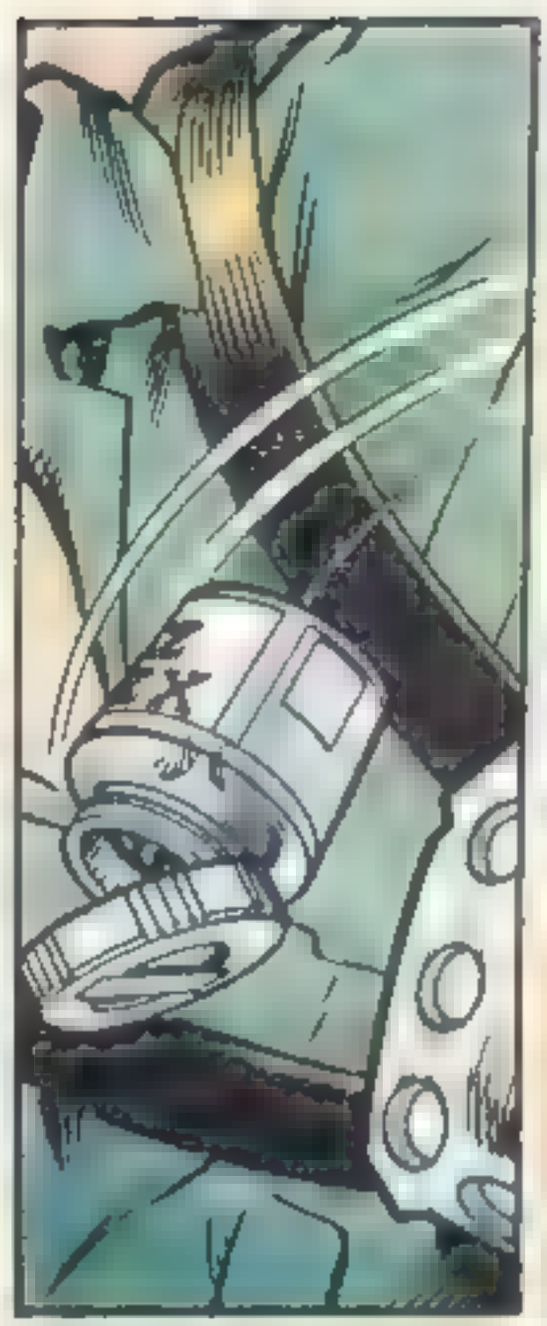
OH SHIT.

DON'T SAY A WORD MAJOR. JUST START LOBBING GRENADES AT THE NEAREST WALL.

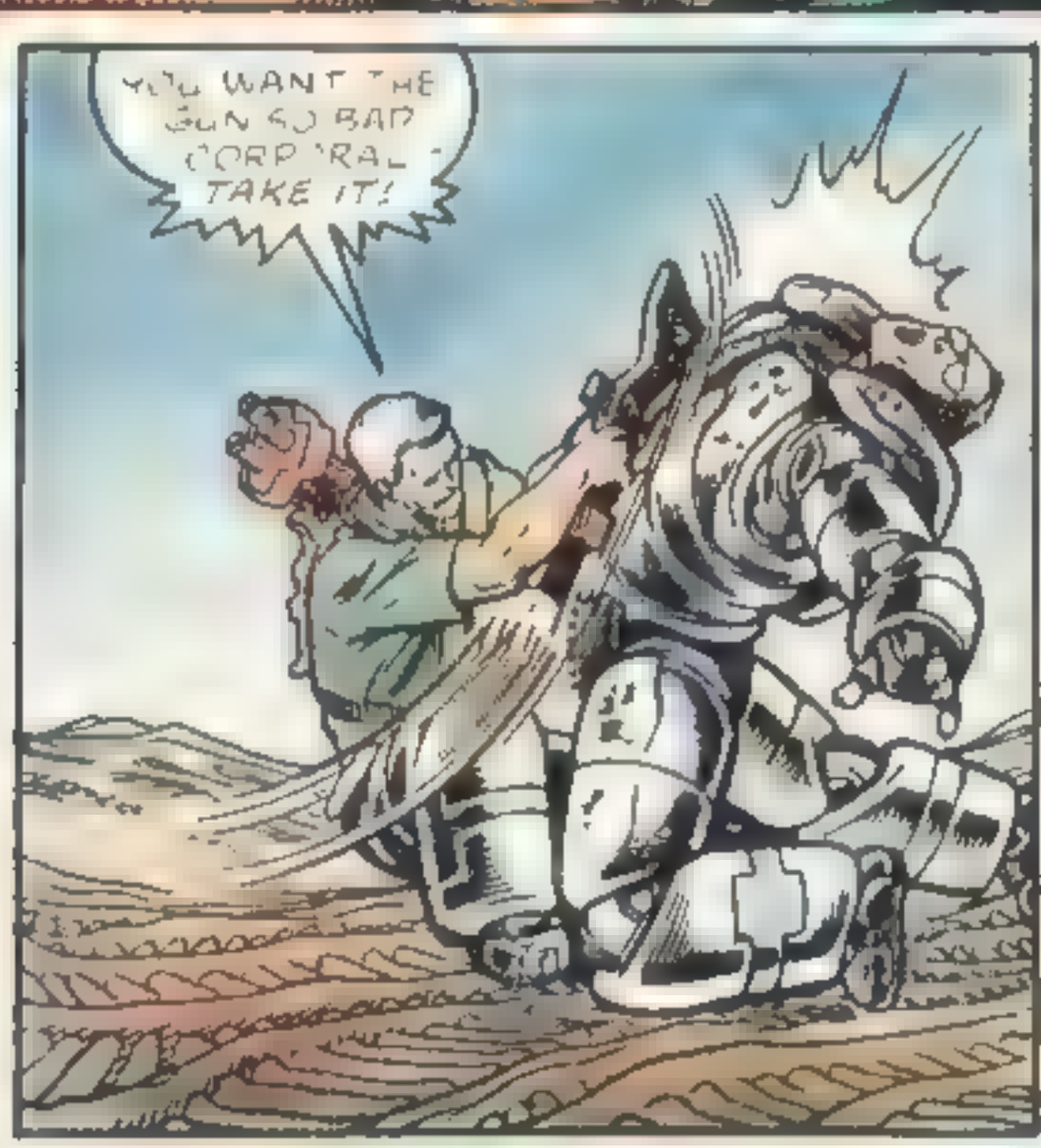
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BLAST OUR WAY OUT OF HERE!

GOOD IDEA PAL.

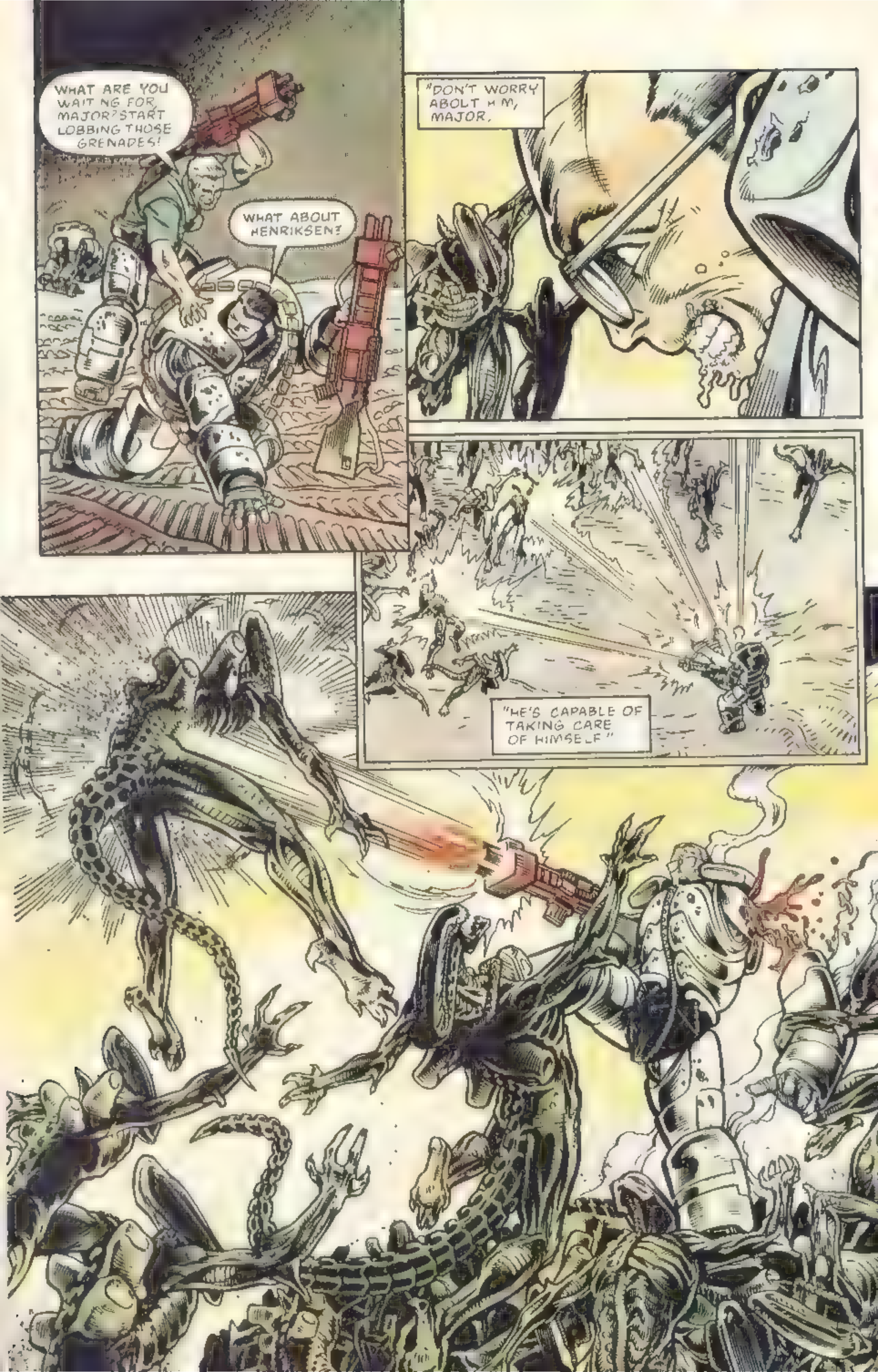

I'M GONNA MAKE IT OUT OF HERE GRANT. I'M GOING TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES!
FOR CHRISSAKES CORPORAL, THERE'S A VIGILANTE ON THE LOOSE

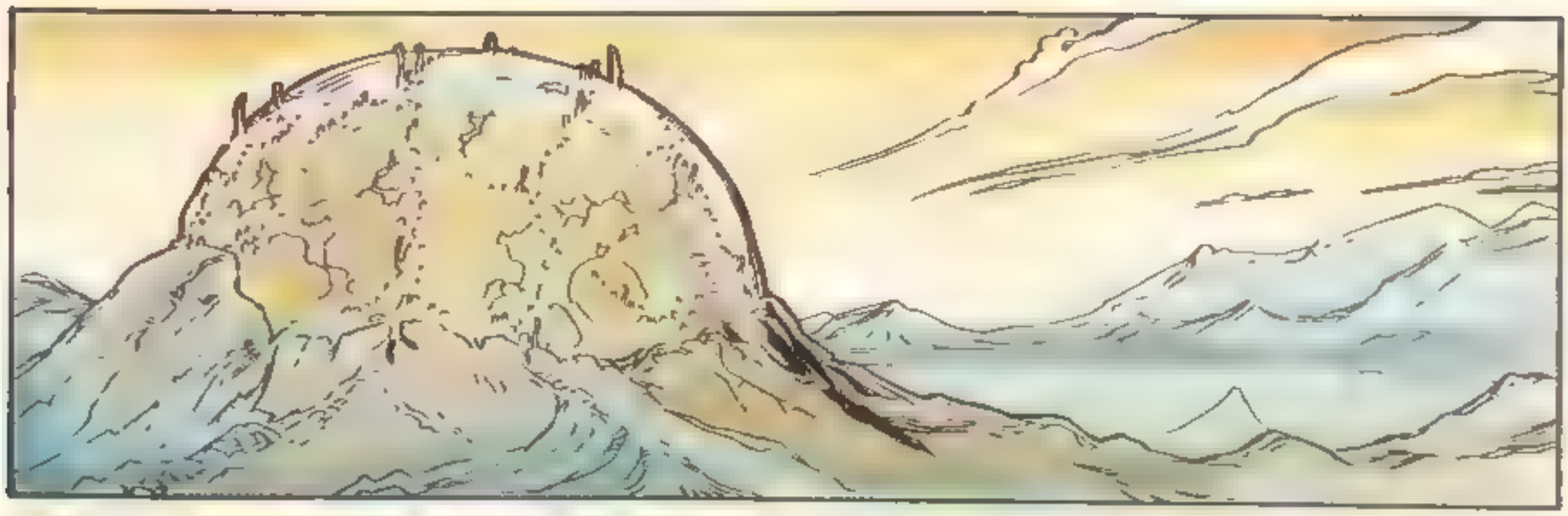


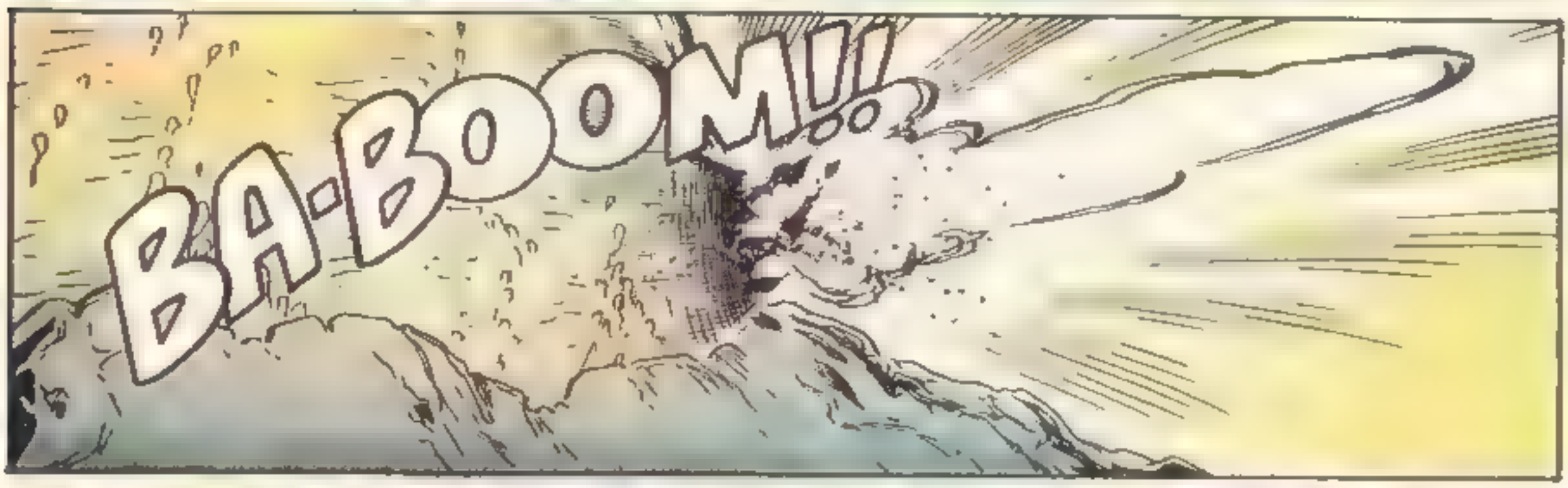
HELL YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT TROUBLE NOW
YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TAKE ONE OF THESE
WHAP
XENO ZIP

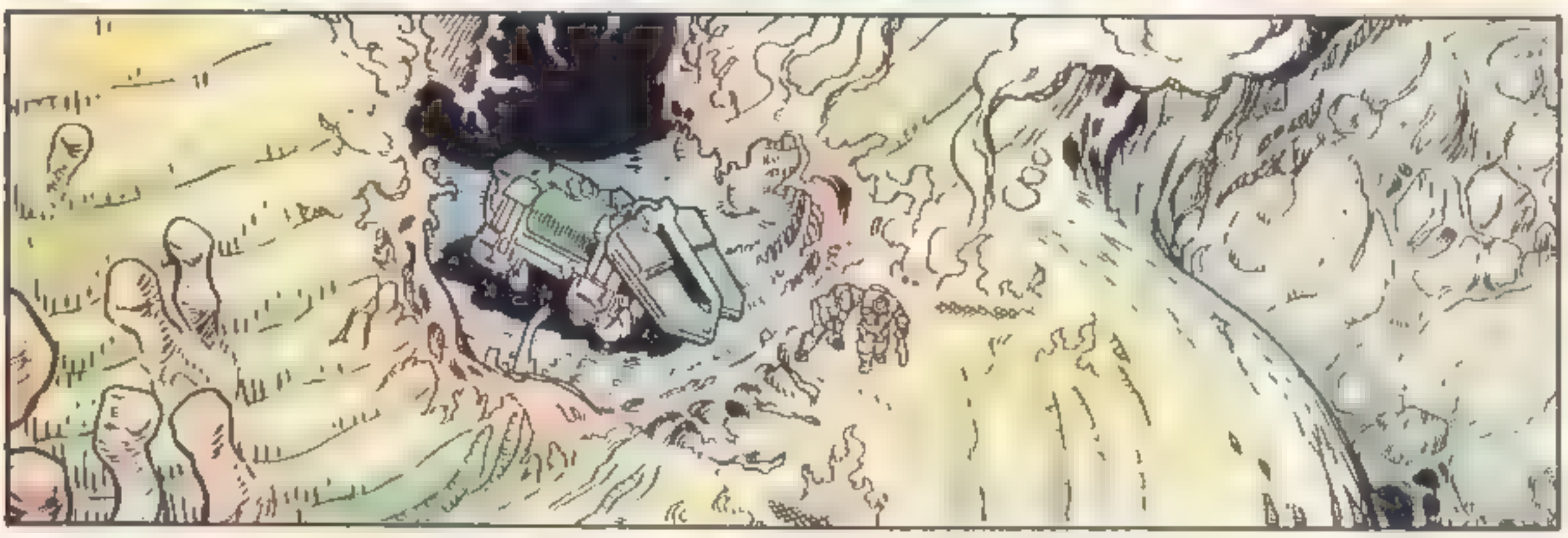

YOU WANT THE GUN SO BAD CORPORAL - TAKE IT!

AND HERE'S A SPECIAL BONUS


WHAT ARE YOU WAIT NG FOR, MAJOR? START LOBBING THOSE GRENADES!
WHAT ABOUT HENRIKSEN?
"DON'T WORRY ABOLT H M, MAJOR.
"HE'S CAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF"

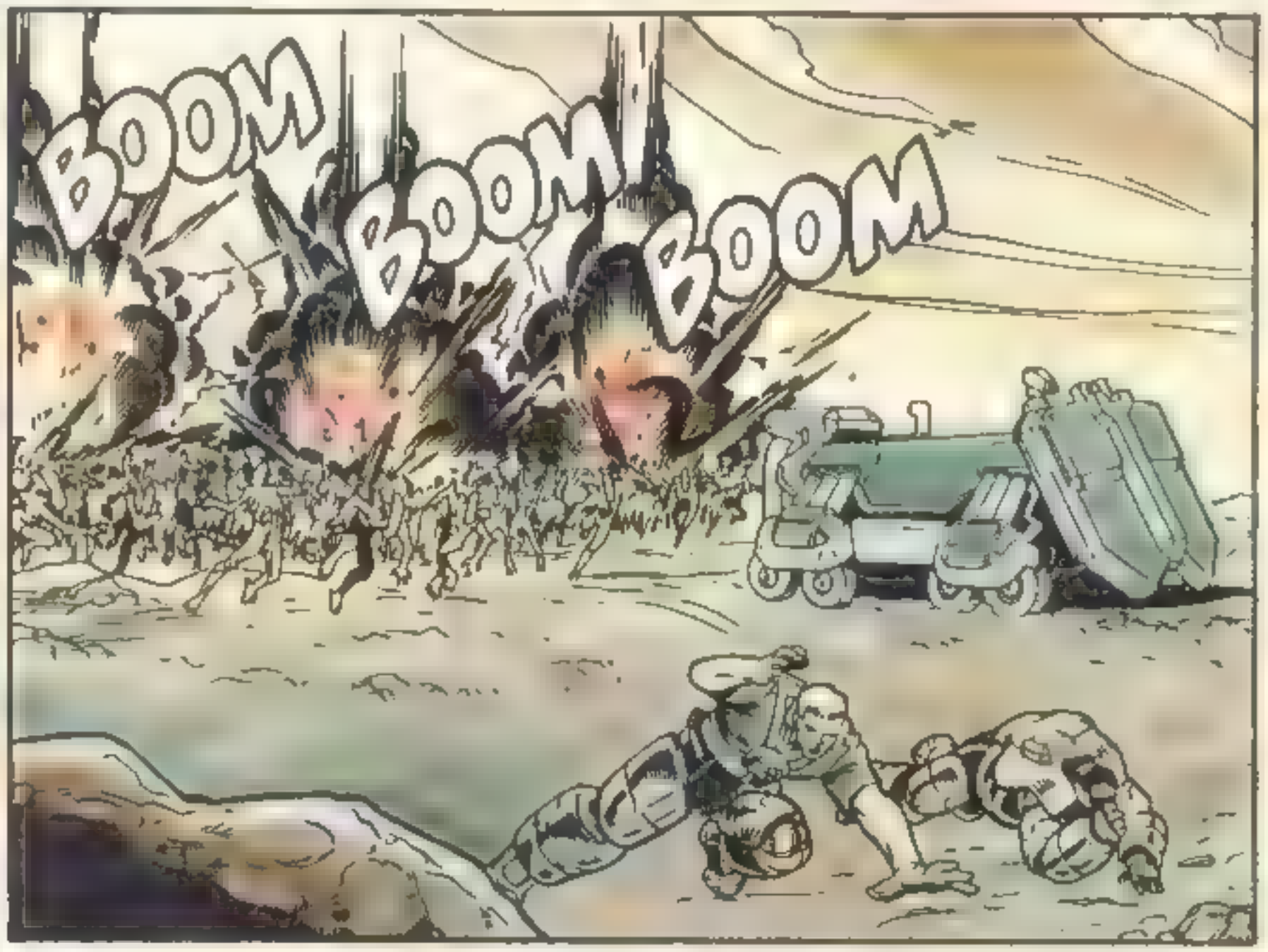


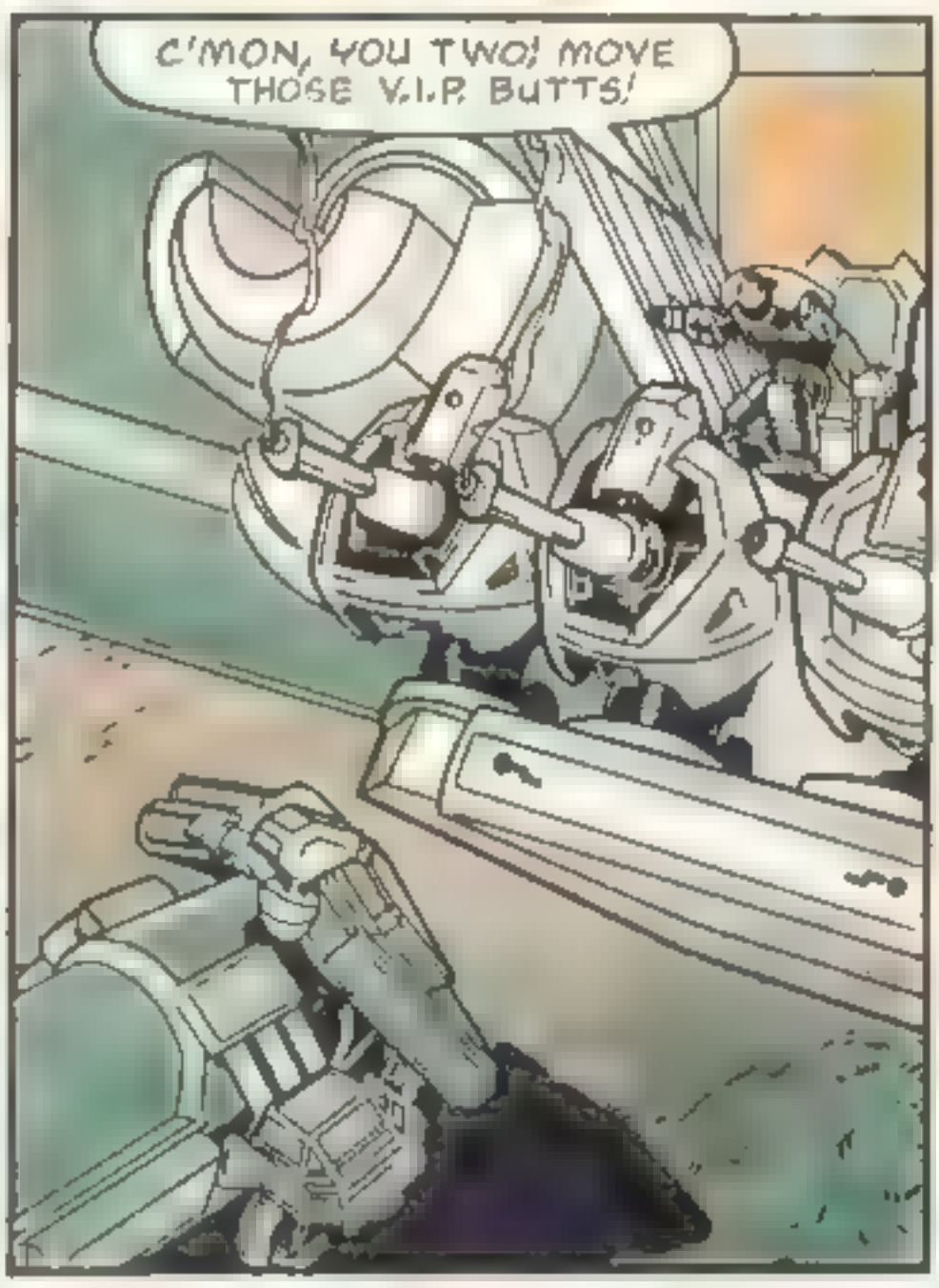

BA-BOOM!!

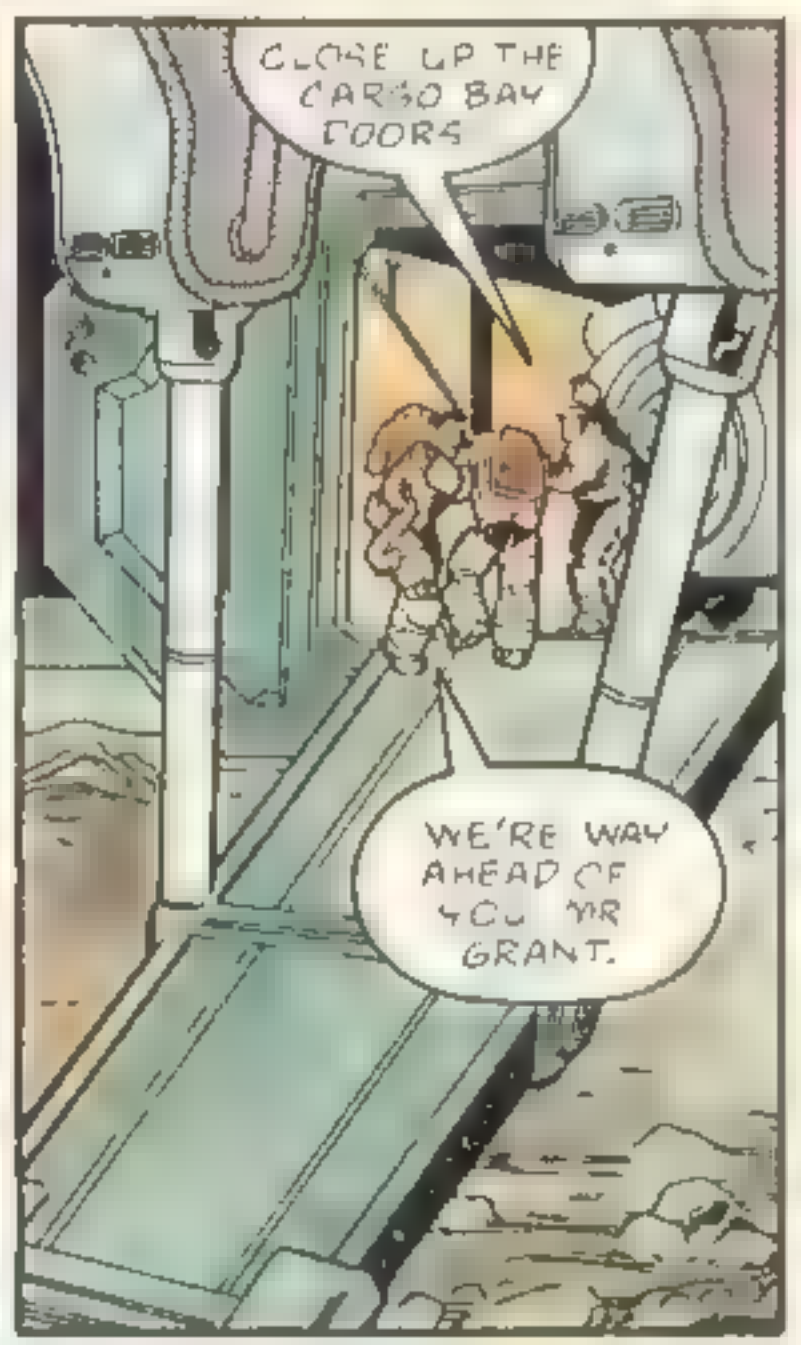


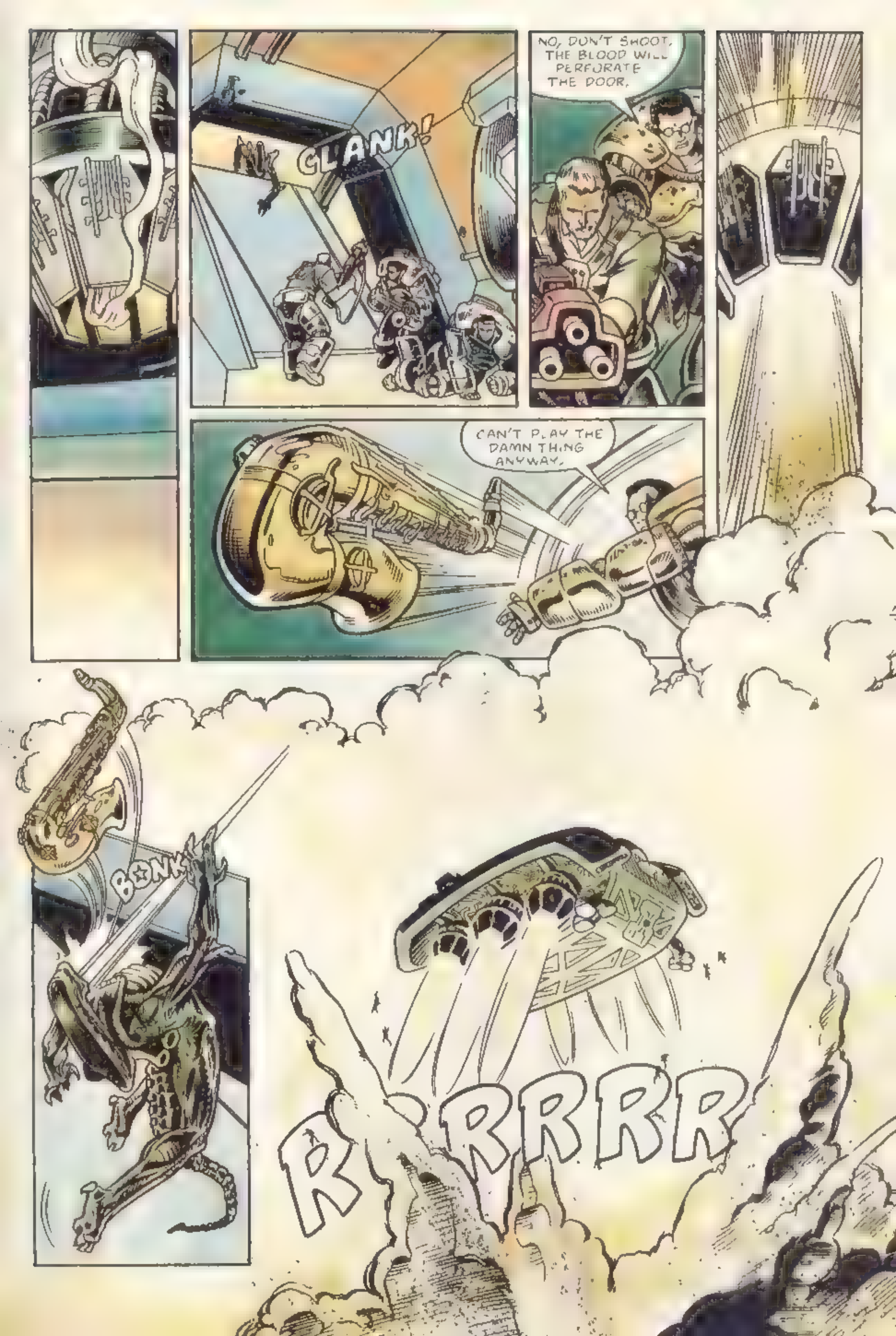
O'CONNOR, DROP ALL WALLS OF THE PERIMETER AND TELL CAPTAIN NASH TO START THE ENGINES!
PREPARE FOR AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY LIFTOFF!

IT'S NO USE. WE'LL NEVER MAKE THE SHIP. THEY'RE ALMOST ON TOP OF US.








GLANK!
NO, DON'T SHOOT, THE BLOOD WILL PERFORATE THE DOOR.
CAN'T PLAY THE DAMN THING ANYWAY.
BONK!
RRRRR

BACK ON THE MOTHER SHIP.

SO YOU'LL BE OKAY?

YEAH JUST A HAIRLINE FRACTURE, FIVE WEEKS IN THE SLEEPER TUBE AND I CAN START PHYSICAL THERAPY ON EARTH

I GUESS YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL YOURSELF.

BETTER THAN I'VE A RIGHT TO, MAJOR.

IF I COULD DO THE WHOLE THING OVER AGAIN, I WOULDN'T DO IT AT ALL, NOT AT THE COST OF ELEVEN GOOD KIDS.

OH, YEAH, I FORGOT. YOU'RE A "CHANGED MAN."

YOU'RE VERY HARD TO WIN OVER, MAJOR LEE, WHICH IS WHY I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON MY SIDE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG HARD, HORRIBLE DAY BUT I FEEL I'VE COME AWAY FROM ALL THIS A WISER, BETTER...PERSON.

SEE? YOU REALLY CAN LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY.

"GOOD NIGHT, MAJOR."

BUG HUNT

SEND MAIL C/O DARK HORSE COMICS 10956 SE MAIN ST., MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Dear Bug Hunt,

After waiting so long for the fourth installment of the *Aliens* saga, it's nice to see a return to the quality that made the first two series so popular. Having learned about the royal jelly premise some months ago (living in town has its privileges), I was very interested to see how the actual story would turn out. I must say the first issue was great!

I've noticed that in many of the Dark Horse comics that are coming out, many of the most powerful characters are women. With the male cliché hero so dominant in most films, your female characters are both refreshing and interesting. Especially with the idea of female military officers thrown in. Daniel Grant's attitude toward Major Lee looks to be quite a source of fun for John Arcudi as well.

I'm looking forward to future issues. With an already deadly homeworld raging with an Alien civil war, the Colonial Marines are in for quite a trip. Congratulations on an excellent kick-off!

Tony Leonetti
1510 Columbia Ave.
Gladstone, OR 97027

Ripley established the standard for strong female characters in the Aliens films. We're just continuing that tradition in the comics.

My Dearest Bug Hunt,

Aliens: Genocide #1 has just been intensely scrutinized by the eyes and mind of none other than me, and I must say that I have found it to be more than satisfactory — and, if the truth be told, quite exceptional. The story concept, with a corrupt leader utilizing the dead Aliens to make a fortune, is quite original and I look forward to its further development. The idea of the Aliens providing the material for a rather shady drug is, though, somewhat reminiscent of an episode in a certain television series featuring humanoid aliens with their heads all spotty...

Anyway, moving on. The art itself was utterly fantastic! I loved the fact that the pencils and inks completely broke away from a monotonous norm and into an entirely different realm of visual stimulation. The drawings seemed full of life and energy, and yet soft to the eye. The overall effect was greatly aided by Suydam's amazing colors. I can't get over how stunning these were. As soon as I laid eyes on the Alien crouched in the foreground in the very first panel, I was hooked. The soft purple and green didn't detract at all from the creature's horrific appearance, but perfectly illustrated the grief and confusion it must be feeling! I am utterly wowed, to say the least.

I, for one, will keep reading. Don't let me down, and make mine Dark Horse!

Oddly awedly,
Matt Fagan
3170 Olive Barber Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Any time humans run across anything that oozes, there's somebody standing by ready to make a new drug out of it. Can't say the basic concept is original to some TV show. The quest for mind-altering substances is one of the oldest human drives, falling somewhere after the primitive desire for food and before the modern desire for an all-encompassing TV remote. Now how about a letter from someone outside of Oregon?

Dear Wonderful Person in Charge of the Green Page,

Yes, the "wonderful" may be laying it on a bit thick, but I like to think of it as making up for catching the Alien wave so late in the game (no pun intended). I'm one of those shameless people waiting for the reprint of the first black and-white collection to find out all the details I am lacking. I know, I know — a day late and a dollar short. But then, that's what comic conventions are for, right?

Which is where, at the most recent one held at the Seattle Center, I picked up *Aliens Vs. Predator* #0-4 in one fell swoop — and had a great time dickering the price down. Only now Randy Stradley is guilty of permanently altering my views of the Predator phenomenon. If this species can understand and appreciate human action and endeavor (at least where Aliens are concerned), something tells me there should be some way to open up relations with them. They know a heckuva lot more about the Aliens than we do, that's for sure! Maybe we could get Machiko Noguchi to take the position of ambassador. That queen skull of hers should open negotiations with little or no problem. Let me know the possibility — or if it only exists in my mind.

And now, onward — to the newest addition to the continuing story about corporate mushbrains being (even now!) unable to make the connection between "bad business" and "Aliens." Enter Daniel Grant, new and improved example that yes, human beings can actually exist at a lower level than that slime Carter J. Burke. Amazing, isn't it? I hope he gets what he deserves — SSSSSSHTHOCK! Secondary jaws, right up his — well, I'll leave anatomy open for personal choice. I'm sure the Aliens don't have a preference. Or do they?

Which brings me to — TA DAAAA! — those maddening QUESTIONS! (and I do mean maddening. I'm a Biology major — I ask the tough ones.)

1) I made the tentative assumption that events in

Aliens: Genocide are taking place sometime soon after Ripley and Co. set off Orona's bombs, but... shouldn't the amount of radiation that's around be interfering with life on Earth as we know it? And what of the terraforming device of those enigmatic Elephant People, hmmmmm?

2) Aliens are not true parasites — e.g.,receiving nourishment at the expense of a host for a lifespan — so what keeps those beasties' metabolisms running? Do they actually eat all the various lifeforms they run roughshod over? (That is, when they don't bring 'em home to Mama.)

3) Explanations, please! I know the opening of the tale is on the Alien homeworld (sans the mother of the species), but what is the purpose of the royal drones securing a "new order" Queen? And on page 3, panel 2, is that a new "Mother Queen" being secured in the center of the nest structure, or simply the "old order" egg-laying Queen, as seen in the last panel of the same page?

4) Last, but not least, are the two varieties of Aliens truly colored what appears to be red and bluish-green, or is the coloring simply for the benefit of the readers, so we can tell the two tribes apart?

That's it for this letter. Hey — no complaints! I went easy on you on account of it's only the first issue and I'm behind on the Aliens phenomenon as it is. To top it off, I'm going to do only one nitpick: I really don't think the Alien blood (or whatever passes for it) should be depicted as red. It needs to be the color of this letter column. No question about it, it's a lovely shade of acid green.

May Aliens infest company CEO offices,

Deborah "Cat" Hubbard
7716 33rd Northwest
Seattle, WA 98117

I know the Aliens' blood is pus-colored. So does Randy. So does Chris. So does everybody who handled those pages. Oops. Unfortunately, all our brains went to lunch when the colored art came by. We were so busy making sure all the plates lined up that we missed the obvious. (Our brains really enjoyed lunch, though, and thank you for asking.) As of issue #3, it's all fixed. Icky Alien ooze, just the way you like it. As for those answers:

1) See the Aliens story in DHP *#56 (or last issue's letter column) for the explanation.*

2) Nope. They survive on Gatorade. That's what makes their blood that color.

3) Confusion set in after the attack on the Aliens' hive in Aliens: Earth War. *The two sets of royal elite are responding to the confusion in their own way, leading to the creation of the conflicting Queens. That's the Green Queen emerging in that panel; the guards who rushed off and created the Red Queen didn't know of her existence.*

4) In "reality," the Aliens are probably close to the same color. They just smell different, or something. But this is comics, and we need to be able to clue in the readers. Tell you what — if your biology studies ever take you to the Aliens' homeworld, write and let us know what color they appear to be.

Dear Bug Hunters,

This is my first time writing to a comic book, and it is only fitting that your book gets it. *Aliens: Genocide* #1 was my first Dark Horse comic, and I must say that I am very impressed. I am in love.

Just a couple of quick questions: Where can I find a domesticated Alien, and where can I purchase some litter and a box for it?

Sincerely,

Chuckerin Black
16412 Stillwater Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577

Hey! Now there's an idea for a future Aliens series: ALIENS: THE HOUSEBREAKING.

Dear Barbara,

The minds of Dark Horse never stop amazing me. *Genocide* #1 blew me away. The second I saw it on the shelf, I snapped it up and worshipped it. The cover was superior to all other comics. I read it immedialely and loved every bit of it. I have some questions that I must know the answers to:

1) Is Gateway station aware of the reconstruction of civilization on Earth?

2) Did the nuclear holocaust at the end of Earth War mutate the Aliens? I have never seen a red Queen and warriors. It was cool.

3) What the hell is that thing at the bottom of page 2? A mutated Queen, perhaps?

4) Red Alien blood? Come on, it is greenish-yellow like in the movie.

5) What do Aliens eat? I have never once seen an Alien eat. Come on, they have to be hungry after all that killing.

Thank you and may the slaughter continue,

Scott Edens
5531 Somers Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46237

1) Yes.

2) Nope. Wrong planet.

3) Yup.

4) I already apologized for the red blood. I'm not going to do it again. Okay, I am. Sorry about the red blood.

5) I always figured they sampled a bit from every kill and sort of snacked their way through a massacre.

Dear Bug Hunters,

I just finished *Aliens: Genocide* #1 and it was sweet! I liked the Earthly artifact on the lower right-hand corner of page 1. The artwork, both cover and interior, was magnificent. A question: What is that thing on page 2? Have we seen this before? I was thoroughly intrigued to find that we have more than one breed of Alien. Very noteworthy. I noticed on pages 15 and 17 that there were some fairly detailed charts of the Aliens in the background. It got me thinking, and a one- or two-issue book of information like that would be the perfect thing for some less knowledgable Aliens fans. (Such as me.) Maybe an explanation about those projections on the Aliens' backs, and why they are such good hunters without eyes. Just a thought. Also, how did the humans reclaim the Earth, and do some Aliens still reside there? The biggest question on my mind is WHO ARE THOSE ALIENS IN THE HUGE HORSESHOE SHIPS? And with all of their apparent technology, why did they have to use the Aliens as pawns to take over the Earth? I'll be looking for answers to these questions and some more great stories in future *Aliens* issues.

Thanks a lot,

Faithful Bene
Address withheld

I think that thing on page 2 is my brain. At least, that's what it feels like at the moment. Those aliens in the horseshoe ships may be back someday, maybe not. We'll have to see.

Dear Dark Horse,

This is my first time writing in to a comic, so please bear with me. I have been collecting comics for less than a year now, but I already have over ninety comics to my name (pretty good for a twelve-year-old on a fixed income, eh?). Of those books in my collection, the ones that I like best are yours: for example, the second *Aliens* series and *AvsP*.

Phill Norwood and Chris Warner can really illustrate a mean comic. I especially like their *Predators*, but keep them out of any *Aliens* works. Another thing, I want to see Dorman illustrating something soon. Please. I see that my prayers have been answered — he's doing Tribes.

How 'bout something on a different note: When my little brother picked up our first Dark Horse comic, I admit to being a bit skeptical at first. I mean, how good could it be? I was surprised; Mark Verheiden can write a good story, but even he couldn't make it such a quality series without the best art I've ever seen by, of course, Denis Beauvais. Now, because of that killer creative team, I'd rather read their comic than watch the movie (well, sometimes).

Since I was so impressed with the second series, I naturally assumed that the third series, *Earth War*, would be as good or better. You guys (and gals) are really good at surprises, but this one I could have done without. The artwork stunk. Not that I have anything against Sam Kieth, it's just that while his art is good, it's just too cartoony for this line of comics (He would, however, be great for *Ziggy*. Ha, ha. I was only joking; it wasn't that bad.) The story was good, though.

I just picked up *Genocide* a couple of days ago and found it a bit corny, but good. You also got rid of Mark Verheiden, which was a bad move, because he apparently took Hicks, Ripley and Newt with him.

Bad move. You just got rid of the main characters of the storyline. I compare it with getting rid of Batman in his own series. Please bring them back. I'm begging you (Well, not really, but for all intents and purposes, it'll do).

A few suggestions are entering my head at this moment: like, how about "Elephant-Head" the alien (y'know, the one from the first series and *Earth War*.) squaring off against a "nascent" Alien (wherever you people got that name) with guess who in the middle? Us, of course.

Or you could have another *Aliens/Predator* crossover with some other lifeform dumped in the middle, or... Well, I just like to see everyone's favorite killing machines in action. I mean, come on here, Aliens kick a--, er, butt, sorta like Predators do.

Well, I think I hear dinner being served, so — gotta go.

Dementedly yours,

Cousin Moe
2512 Elson Green Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Are you sure you're only 12? You've got a 40-year-old cynicism there, Moe.

Dear Dark Horse,

I have to admit my surprise at seeing *Aliens: Genocide* #1 at my favorite comic shop two weeks before "Flogging a Dead Horse" has slated its release date. Way to go! After reading it (then mulling it over for a few days), I was compelled to write a letter. I'd apologize in advance for my poor writing style, but a teacher of mine always said never to do that, so forget it.

I'll slam the writing in this issue first. Just kidding, it was really pretty good. Mike Richardson has come up with a pretty unique story so far. I was wondering what happened to Ripley, Hicks and Newt. Did I miss an *Aliens* story somewhere along the way, after *Earth War*? Anyway, I thought that the scene with the race was a good introduction to Xeno-Zip. It was kind of freaky, the way that kid killed himself to win a hundred-yard dash. The scene with the soldiers was even cooler. It kind of reminded me of those commercials with the Energizer Bunny. It keeps going, and going, and going...

But the very beginning, that was something else. A civil war was something I'd always thought possible of the Predators, but never the Aliens. That should also give you an idea, Mr. Verheiden.

On to the art critique! The cover was exceptional, 'nuff said. I did have a few problems with the art on the inside, though. It isn't the pencilling. No, Damon Willis is very good at what he does. I'm not sure who to blame this on, the inker or the colorist. On pages 10, 11, 15-18, 12 and 24, in several panels, it looks as though watercolor was hurriedly slapped on there, as if to meet a deadline that was five seconds from that moment. It was handled well in some places throughout the book, but in others, it just didn't work. I also expect issue #2 to be a little darker. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt this time, because the majority of the comic took place on Earth.

Overall, *Aliens: Genocide* #1 was very good. It had a bit of everything, ranging from prejudice towards women to a strong anti-drug message. I was also wondering if you read every letter you get. And I have a complaint for whoever answered the letters in *Predator: Cold War* #2. They said that *Alien 3* would be released in October of '91. Well, it's now 4:19 PM, October 31st, 1991, and I've seen nothing pertaining to this long-awaited sequel, 'cept in the comics. Coincidence... or CIA? Oh, any word on a new *Predator* movie? And this whole business about the third Alien movie being called *Alien cubed*? That's something I'd expect from *The Naked Gun*. Well, I've got nothing better to do, so I guess I'll be signing off.

See ya,

Phil Malone
Address withheld

Alien 3 *was originally slated for October, but will now be appearing in early summer '92. The characters of Ripley, Hicks and Newt have not appeared in our comic because of their roles in that movie. Watch for* Aliens: Newt's Tale *and our* Alien 3 *adaptation this June for details.*

And, on that note, you're not the only one signing off...

—Barbara Kesel

Flogging a Dead Horse

1991 was Dark Horse's best year since we began publishing in 1986. Overall sales were way up, and our high-visibility projects such as ***Terminator: One Shot*** and ***Give Me Liberty*** contributed to a constant increase in consumer awareness of our company, both inside and outside of the direct sales market. This year also marked the beginning of several very important business relationships that hold great promise for Dark Horse's continued growth.

Our licensing agreement with the fine folks at Lucasfilm Ltd. has already resulted in two phenomenally successful series (***Indiana Jones*** and ***Star Wars***), with 1992 promising continued success as we adapt episodes of ***The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*** ABC-TV show. In 1991, we also began our relationship with Largo Entertainment and are operating our own newly formed corporation, Dark Horse Entertainment, out of the Twentieth Century Fox lot. This affords us even greater flexibility and faster reflexes in securing future motion-picture licenses, and at the same time puts Dark Horse in the driver's seat as a budding producer of its own film projects. Another 1991 milestone was our publication of John Byrne's ***2112***. This book is the result of yet another key relationship, which will continue to grow as this month Dark Horse premieres the new monthly color series titled ***John Byrne's Next Men***.

In 1992 we plan to continue producing the best comics possible, attracting more new readers to our medium. We reaffirm our comitment to providing the best possible comics entertainment, bar none! Our priority is the continued growth of our line in terms of both quality and quantity (with the emphasis on quality!). This month alone has several great books on the ship list, including ***Primal: From the Cradle to the Grave*** by Clive Barker, Eric Saltzgaber, Dan Chichester, and John Van Fleet; all-new Moebius material in ***Cheval Noir #26;*** and a disturbing journey into the disturbed mind with Malcolm Bourne and M. Dalton Allred as they present ***Tales of Ordinary Madness***.

We will continue to secure more creator-owned projects by hot newcomers and established pros, as well as new high-visibility licensing agreements. The much-anticipated ***Terminator: Versus Robocop*** written by Frank Miller and illustrated by Walt Simonson is only one of several projects that we have in store for the coming year.

Above all, what we have valued most in the past twelve months has been Dark Horse's continuing relationships with the many fine creative talents whose efforts we've had the pleasure of publishing, and the special trust that has been established between Dark Horse and all who have supported our efforts. 1991 was one heck of a Fifth Anniversary!

As you can tell from reading this, we're working hard to bring you the very best in 1992, and we're looking forward to many more years of growth and creativity on the road to our Tenth Anniversary celebration in 1996!

Just trying to be,

Bob Schreck

Mike Richardson • publisher

Neil Hankerson • vice-president of operations

Randy Stradley • executive editor

Barbara Kesel • managing editor

Jerry Prosser, Diana Schutz, Chris Warner, Anina Bennett • editorial staff

Bob Schreck • marketing director

Kris Young • marketing assistant

Cece Cutsforth • production director

Chris Chalenor • production manager

Steven Birch, Cary Grazzini, Ray Gruen, Carolyn Megyesi, Greg Pearson, Jack Pollock, Steve Posey, Monty Sheldon, Sean Tierney • production

Brad Horn • controller

Debbie Byrd, Chris Creviston, Tiffany Schlobohm • operations

CHECKLIST

☐ **SHIPPING JANUARY 7**
Aliens Genocide #3
Dark Horse Presents #58
Venus Wars #10
Next Men #1
Terminator Enemy Within #3

☐ **SHIPPING JANUARY 14**
Cheval Noir #26
Predator: Bloody Sands of Time #1
Primal
Give Me Liberty

☐ **SHIPPING JANUARY 21**
Tales of Ordinary Madness #1
Aliens Genocide #4
Compleat Aliens

☐ **SHIPPING JANUARY 28**
Deadline #3
Insider #3
Terminator Enemy Within #4